

have no doubt have received and will receive all the attention the importance of the subjects therein discussed and acted on demands. You will perceive that, in accordance with your wishes, I communicated the proposition in relation to a conventional line of boundary, with the letter of Mr. Forsyth, addressed to the Executive of Maine. The views, and wishes, and determination of the Executive and Legislature, and, I think I may safely add, of the people, of Maine, are fully and distinctly set forth in the documents referred to, communicated to you, heretofore, by me. The proposition was distinct and definite, and the answer is equally so, and I consider that it may be regarded as the fixed determination of Maine to consent to no proposition on our part to vary the treaty line, but to stand by that line, as a definite, a practicable, and a fair one, until its impracticability is demonstrated. It is needless for me to recapitulate the reasons upon which this determination is founded. I refer you to the documents before alluded to for my own views on this topic, sanctioned fully by the Legislature. The duty devolving upon me, by your request, I have endeavored to discharge, in a spirit of profound respect for the constituted officers of the General Government, and with a single eye to the interest and honor of the United States and of the State of Maine. The attitude assumed by Maine in relation to the survey of the line of the treaty of 1783, has doubtless attracted your attention. I feel it due to the State to say to you, frankly and unequivocally, that this position was taken deliberately, and with a full consideration of all the circumstances of the case. But it was assumed in no spirit of defiance or resistance, and with no design to embarrass the action of the General Government. Maine feels no desire to act alone or independently on this question. She knows and feels that it is a national question, and that it is the right and duty of the General Government to move forward in effecting the object proposed.

I feel fully warranted in saying that Maine does not intend, by this expression of her determination to run the line in a certain contingency, to waive, in the least degree, her well founded claim upon the General Government to run, mark, and establish it. On the contrary, she will most reluctantly yield the hope she now so strongly feels, that it is the intention of that Government to relieve her from the necessity of throwing herself upon her own resources to assert and defend her most unquestionable right. The wish of this State is, that the first act should be to run the line of the treaty of 1783, to ascertain the facts in relation to the topography of the country, and the exact spot where the northwest angle of Nova Scotia may be found, according to our construction of the treaty language, and to place suitable monuments along the whole line. Such a survey would not settle or determine any rights, but it would express and declare our views and intentions. Such a survey is not a warlike or offensive movement, and cannot justly give offence to the other party in the controversy. It is the unquestionable right of litigants in a court of justice to make explorations of land in dispute, and if either party declines a joint survey, it may be made *ex parte*. And surely the United States have never so far yielded the actual possession to Great Britain, as to preclude the right, on our part, to ascertain for ourselves the absolute facts, and to mark out the limits of our claim and our alleged right.

This act Maine asks, and asks earnestly, the General Government to perform without delay. Such an assumption of the controversy, on the part of the United States, would be to Maine an assurance that her rights