

and the aid of the General Government urgently requested to bring about the settlement and establishment of the line of boundary. More recently, and since the commencement of the present session of Congress, (very soon after the receipt of the last communication from the British Government upon the boundary question,) the President caused to be sent to the Governor of Maine a statement of the correspondence which had been had between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain upon the subject of the boundary, since the rejection of the opinion of the arbiter in 1832, with a request that he would adopt such measures as he might deem necessary to ascertain the sense of the State of Maine with respect to the expediency of attempting to establish a conventional line, as well as to additional surveys and explorations with a view to the satisfactory adjustment of the controversy according to the terms of the treaty, or enabling the parties to decide more understandingly upon the expediency of opening a negotiation for a line that would suit their mutual convenience, &c. The message of the Governor communicating that statement to the Legislature, and the resolutions of the Legislature thereupon, which I had the honor a few days ago to present to the Senate, have been printed, and are in the hands of Senators. They are a full, unequivocal, and direct response to the questions propounded, and speak the language and determination, not of a party, or of a mere majority, but of the whole Legislature and people of Maine. This, sir, is no party question in Maine. The whole people of that State feel that they are injured, and that their appeals to the General Government for the protection and guarantee of their rights, which they believe the Constitution of the United States was designed to afford them, have already been too long disregarded; and they now hope and trust that Congress will adopt such measures as will insure the running and marking of the boundary line between that State and a foreign Government, according to the terms of the treaty. Such measures are not intended by Maine, and ought not to be regarded by others, as hostile, but as means, and probably the only means, of settling the question of boundary for many years yet to come. The bill which I propose to submit and urge the passage of, in conformity with the resolutions of my State, provides that the President shall cause the boundary line to be run and marked agreeably to the provisions of the treaty of peace of 1783. The time for executing this service, and the manner of doing it, is left entirely to the discretion of the President, and it is believed that it may be done without giving just cause of offence to Great Britain. What other mode of running this line of boundary can be pursued when it is considered that our Government has repeatedly proposed to the Government of Great Britain mutually to appoint surveyors or commissioners to run and mark the line according to the treaty, and that those propositions have been declined on the pretence that the description of the line in the treaty is so imperfect that it is impracticable to run that line so as to conform to the terms of the treaty, and that the British Government still refuses to assent to such a survey and running of the line unless this Government will agree to such preliminaries as would

change, or render impracticable, the survey of the line of the treaty.

It will be seen by reference to the correspondence between this Government and that of Great Britain, since the rejection of the opinion of the arbiter, that our Government have been constantly endeavoring to open negotiations with Great Britain for the establishment of the line according to the treaty of 1783; that the British Government have declined to negotiate upon that basis, and have insisted and still insist, that a conventional line must be substituted for the treaty line. That there may be no mistake upon this part of the subject, the correspondence between the two Governments should be examined with care, and it will show that on the 21st of July, 1832, Mr. Livingston informed Mr. Bankhead that the decision of the arbiter had been rejected by the Senate; and that the President, in pursuance of the advice of the Senate, proposed "to open a new negotiation with his Britannic Majesty's Government for the ascertainment of the boundary between the possessions of the United States and those of Great Britain on the northeastern frontier of the United States, according to the treaty of peace of 1783;" and it was further suggested that if the parties should be unable to agree upon the establishment of the treaty line, means might be found of avoiding the constitutional difficulties that hitherto had attended the establishment of a boundary more convenient to both parties than that designated by the treaty, and that such a negotiation would naturally embrace the right of navigation of the river St. John. On the 14th of April, 1833, Sir Charles R. Vaughan replied "that his Majesty's Government regret that they cannot discover in this proposition any probable means of arriving at a settlement of this difficult question. It appears to his Majesty's Government to be utterly hopeless to attempt to find out, at this time of day, by means of new negotiation, an assumed line of boundary which successive negotiators, and which commissioners employed on the spot have, during so many years, failed to discover, &c.; that his Majesty's Government will eagerly avail themselves of any probable chance of bringing the question to a satisfactory settlement, and will lose no time in endeavoring to ascertain from Mr. Livingston in the first place, what is the principle of the plan of boundary which the American Government appear to contemplate as likely to be to be more convenient to both parties, &c.; whether any, and what arrangements for avoiding the constitutional difficulties has yet been concluded with the State of Maine, that it was necessary that his Majesty's Government should be informed of the basis upon which it is proposed to negotiate before they can either entertain the proposal, or decide upon instructions to be given; that they must be previously assured that the President will possess the power of carrying into effect his part of any engagement, &c.; and that his Majesty cannot consent to embarrass the negotiation respecting the boundary, by mixing up with it a discussion respecting the navigation of the river St. John."

On the 30th of April, 1833, Mr. Livingston proposed to Sir Charles R. Vaughan that the disadvantages of the modes of settlement heretofore adopted might be avoided by appointing a new

commissioner friendly to both parties, they disagreed upon the proposed of settling the boundary by agents; a suggested name, and on the present the role is possible to boundary, course. I shall have north court not reach tion of tho a direct line ever may be to be adopt ble to the Charles R. arrangement States convenient in the pre the basis of sent by t

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