

## XII.

North-eastern  
Boundary.

Arrest of E. Greely-  
Fortifications.

delegation meet at my rooms this evening. In the meantime I have received an invitation to call on the Secretary of State. I have been expecting it. If the object of the interview is connected with our business in any thing that is important, I shall not fail to make it known to you.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WM. P. PREBLE.

*His Excellency Samuel E. Smith, Governor of Maine.*

Sir,

*Washington, February 16, 1832.*

IT is now very late, or rather very early—but I cannot retire without first laying before you the results of the day and of the evening. Our delegation has been together, as suggested in my letter No. 5—and the business of our boundary generally, and of our prospects in regard to it, have been the subjects of consultation and consideration. The delegation agree in the views expressed in my letter, which I took occasion to lay before them, and all concur in the sentiment and apprehension that Maine will probably be ultimately compelled to acquiesce in the award, with a claim for indemnity. We do not despair altogether; yet such are our fears, and I deem it infidelity to the interests of the State for me to conceal them from you. I also laid before them the subjects of consideration between myself and the Secretary of State; I will proceed to lay them before you. I am justified in saying, that the delegation are nearly, if not absolutely, unanimous in commending the propositions to the favourable consideration of the Legislature. The Government of the United States feel themselves embarrassed by the posture of affairs, in relation to the north-eastern boundary. They are anxious to save the rights of Maine, and preserve what is thought to be the honor of the country, and to prevent its peace being put in jeopardy. Without therefore undertaking to say whether Maine is right or is wrong in her doctrines, but believing that she is greatly injured as a matter of fact, it is proposed that Maine should cede to the United States her claim and jurisdiction over that portion of territory which lies northerly and easterly of the line, recommended by the Arbitrator, for an indemnity, in order that the United States may be enabled to make such an arrangement with Great Britain, as may best comport with the interests and honor of the United States. And for this purpose it is proposed, that the Agent of Maine should be authorized to enter into a negotiation with such person or persons, as may be designated by the President for the cession of jurisdiction on the one part, and the settlement of the indemnity on the other, the agreement that may be thus entered into, to be subject to ratification, &c. It is proposed that the indemnity should be in land. On this proposition, after the most mature consideration, we agree, that it saves the honor of the State; that it relieves the United States, and that so far as pecuniary interests are concerned, it will be immensely advantageous to Maine. Also, if Maine is disposed to make a bargain, we all agree this is the favorable moment. Suffer it to pass unimproved and it is gone forever. I have stated the proposition just as made. Doubtless the Government of the United States would negotiate as readily with any other person as with the person who at this moment holds the place of Maine's Agent. If he should be authorized, he ought of course to consult with our delegation. These propositions are made confidentially, and to be laid before the Legislature of Maine confidentially, and their action thereon, and whatever relates to the subject, must be regarded as confidential. Let this business, I pray, be acted upon as speedily as possible, and the results be communicated without unnecessary delay. I repeat, in our deliberations there was but one opinion among our delegation on this subject.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WM. P. PREBLE.

*His Excellency Samuel E. Smith, Governor of Maine,*

P. S.—A more ample indemnity could be obtained in land than in money.

W. P. P.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

AGREEABLY to the request of the House of Representatives, I herewith communicate, confidentially, for their consideration, copies of all the official letters of William P. Preble, the Agent of this State at Washington, in relation to the subject of the north-eastern boundary; together with the documents accompanying the same, which were received before my last confidential communication, or have been received since, with the exception of those before communicated; and a letter dated February 20th, number 2, and marked "private and confidential," communicating certain documents now before the General Government, which cannot, consistently with my public duty, and without a violation of confidence, be formally laid before the Legislature. But I have placed these papers in the hands of the Chairman of the Committee on this subject on the part of the House of Representatives, to be used as in his discretion shall appear proper and consistent with the public interest and the honor of the Government.