

not agree, they were to state their grounds of difference, and the subject was to be referred to the arbitration of some friendly Sovereign or State, to be afterwards agreed upon by the two Governments. The two commissioners examined the boundary, explored the country, but could not agree.

In the year 1823, under the administration of Mr. Monroe, negotiations were commenced with a view of agreeing on an arbitration, and these negotiations terminated in a convention, which was signed in London, on the 29th September, 1827, in the administration of Mr. Adams. By this time, collisions had already begun on the borders, notwithstanding it had been understood that neither party should exercise exclusive possession pending the negotiation. Mr. Adams, in his message of December 8, 1827, after stating the conclusion of the convention for arbitration, adds:

“While these conventions have been pending, incidents have occurred of conflicting pretensions, and of a dangerous character, upon the territory itself in dispute between the two nations. By a common understanding between the Governments, it was agreed that no exercise of exclusive jurisdiction by either party, while the negotiation was pending, should change the state of the question of right to be definitely settled. Such collision has, nevertheless, recently taken place, by occurrences the precise character of which has not yet been ascertained.”

The King of the Netherlands was appointed arbitrator, and he made his award on the 10th of January, 1831. This award was satisfactory to neither party; it was rejected by both, and so the whole matter was thrown back upon its original condition.

This happened in the first term of Gen. Jackson's administration. He immediately addressed himself, of course, to new efforts for the adjustment of the controversy. His energy and diligence have both been much commended by his friends; and they have not been disparaged by his opponents. He called to his aid, in the Department of State, successively, Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McLane, and Mr. Forsyth.

Now, Mr. President, let us see what progress General Jackson made, with the assistance of these able and skilful negotiators, in this highly important business. Why, sir, the whole story is told by reference to his several annual messages: In his fourth annual message, December, 1832, he says: “The question of our Northeastern Boundary still remains unsettled.” In December, 1833, he says: “The interesting question of our Northeastern Boundary remains still undecided. A negotiation, however, upon that subject, has been renewed since the close of the last Congress.” In December, 1834, he says: “The question of the Northeastern Boundary is still pending with Great Britain, and the proposition made in accordance with the resolution of the Senate for the establishment of a line according to the treaty of 1783, has not been accepted by that Government. Believing that every disposition is felt on both sides to adjust this perplexing question to the satisfaction of all the parties interested in it, the hope is yet indulged that it may be effected on the basis of that proposition.” In December, 1835, a similar story is rehearsed: “In the settlement of the question of the Northeastern Boun-