

settlement of the long-pending Question of the Boundary Line, will be for the Government of England and the United States to appoint competent persons to draw a line of mutual convenience which should divide the two countries, leaving to arbitration the various claims to pecuniary compensation arising from the surrender of lands on either side. The settlement of the Americans upon the lands south of the Restook River, would render them extremely reluctant to resign any part of that valuable territory; but I have reason to believe that they would at present agree to a line being drawn from the point where the north line crosses the Restook to the confluence either of the St. Francis, or of the Fish River with the St. John's; by such a line the British settlers on both banks of the St. John's would be protected,—a measure which is very desirable, both in justice to them and in consideration of the moral effect which an abandonment of them would have within the province. It is not necessary that I should inform your Lordship that while the inhabitants of this province entertain a strong feeling against any concession being made to the Americans, those of the neighbouring States of the Union are equally strenuous in their claim to the Territory in dispute, and that their influence might be effectually exerted in defeating the plan of the General Government for the settlement of the boundary on any basis which would involve a renewal of the question of right. By the proposed line the communication with Quebec would also be adequately secured, and a better boundary line secured than that of the river of Woodstock. I found that the Governor of Maine had left the place but a few hours previous to my arrival, having come there in the course of his tour through the new settlements. From Major Ruxton, who has recently arrived at this place from Canada by the way of Boston, I learn that the question is much discussed at the present time by the Americans, and not always in a friendly spirit.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBKOOKE.

---

Inclosure 20 in No. 28.

*Sir W. Colebrooke to Lord John Russell.*

My Lord,

*Government House, June 18, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch, dated June 14, recommending an early settlement of the Boundary Question by drawing a line which might be agreed upon as mutually convenient, I beg to observe that I have not failed to consider the advantages of a line of separation drawn from the due north line at Mars' Hill to the confluence of the St. Francis or Fish River with the St. John's.

Circumstances might at one time have induced the Americans to assent to such a line, and, if now attainable, it would undoubtedly be preferable to the line which I have proposed from the point where the north line intersects the Restook; but the settlement of the lands south of that river by the people of Maine would probably lead them to oppose it, and such opposition would, as I apprehend, effectually prevent the Government of the United States from acceding to it.

The encroachments which have taken place, and the embarrassment they have occasioned, induce me to consider that no time should be lost in effecting such a settlement as may now be practicable, and that would not compromise the just rights of the settlers on both banks of the St. John's River at Madawaska, who have a just claim to the protection of the British Government.

There is another question which has been mooted regarding the navigation of the St. John's by the Americans.

The project alluded to in the Report of the British Consul in Maine, inclosed with your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of May, of cutting a canal to unite the waters of the Allegash with those of the Penobscot, would indicate that the Americans are looking to other means of transporting the lumber to their markets.