

were the unsettled boundaries with Canada, the slave trade, and the tariff. Toward the end of Vaughan's period as Minister, Andrew Jackson became President and instead of adopting a belligerent attitude toward Great Britain, as was half expected, his policy was friendly. He took up the question of the West Indian trade, which had failed of settlement under John Quincy Adams, in part at least owing to his intractable temper, and concluded a treaty on terms advantageous to both countries. The redoubtable warrior, who had defeated the British army so signally at New Orleans in 1814, used this language in his message to Congress: "It gives me unfeigned pleasure to assure you that the negotiation has been characterized throughout by the most frank and friendly spirit on the part of Great Britain, and concluded in a manner strongly indicative of a sincere desire to cultivate the best relation with the United States. To reciprocate this disposition to the fullest extent of my ability is a duty which I shall deem it a privilege to discharge."

"Old Hickory" could afford to utter soft words about the traditional enemy without endangering his chances of a second term. When the day for Vaughan's departure came, he was given a public ball and supper by Washington people, including many members of Congress, and the comments of newspapers dwelt upon the "unfeigned goodness of heart and generous hospitality" which had endeared him to all. He was to have returned to Washington after leave of absence, but upon consideration, declined the offer, and Henry Stephen Fox was sent out in 1835. The halcyon days continued for a time. Fox was a London man of fashion with agreeable manners. All went well, until the Maine boundary dispute assumed an acute phase in 1839. This was another of the unfortunate legacies of the treaty of peace. The ill-feeling was intensified by other matters, notably the activities along the Canadian border of sympathizers with

the rebellion in Upper Canada. Fox was not thought strong enough to handle the accumulation of trouble. In the technical sense, he was superseded, and Lord Ashburton arrived as special envoy in April, 1842. Affairs wore a serious aspect, and "the Aroostook war" in which armed forces were engaged on the Maine boundary furnished material for a general conflagration. This was avoided by the famous Ashburton Treaty which secured peace at a price some have thought too high, but which has been defended by others as a reasonable concession considering the original blunder of 1783. It is needless at this point to consider Canadian discontent with British diplomacy at Washington. This can be discussed more conveniently later on. Lord Ashburton had a hard time of it, from all accounts, and wrote home plaintively: "I continue to crawl about in these heats by day and pass my nights in a sleepless fever. In short, I shall positively not outlive this affair if it is to be much prolonged." His life was mercifully spared, but his credit as a diplomatist in no wise enhanced.

It fell to the lot of the next British Minister, Sir Richard Pakenham, to deal with the steadily growing excitement over the Oregon boundary question, and the slogan of the fire-eaters, "Fifty-four forty or fight", indicated that political agitation would do what it could—and that was a good deal—to prevent a settlement. However, the issue, after several years of negotiation, was settled pacifically on the basis of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude. It was not a British victory on the merits of the case, but removed a cause of war. The weakness of the British policy in boundary disputes was the slowness with which just claims were pressed and decided. Time was always on the side of the United States. The negotiations wearied Pakenham and upon returning to England in 1847 he declined to go back to Washington. To him succeeded Sir Henry Bulwer (afterwards created Lord Dalling), one of the ablest