

XII.

North-eastern
Boundary.
Arrest of E. Greely.
Fortifications.

cumstances, as an outrage on our territorial rights, of an aggravated character, and against which this State ought most solemnly to protest.

Several years ago, without consulting the United States Government, or the authorities of the State, the British Government appointed a "Warden" of the territory, whose business it seems to have been, to take the entire charge of this whole territory. When we say a warden was appointed without the knowledge of the United States Government, we mean to be understood to say, that after a careful search through the correspondence, we find no intimation that our General Government had ever concurred in such an appointment. But it is a fact worthy of remark, that Sir A. Campbell, in his letter to Mr. Vaughan, the British Minister at Washington, under date of January 20th, 1834, says, "the warden, Lieutenant Maclauchlan, was appointed to the wardenship of the country with the knowledge and concurrence of the President." So long ago as September, 1833, we find the same warden, in his letter to Sir A. Campbell, complaining that the proper agents of Maine and Massachusetts interfered with his charge of the territory, by undertaking to give licence to our people, on this territory, to cut timber. This warden still continues his wardenship, and was active in the arrest of Mr. Greely. It presents a somewhat singular case that this warden should have the effrontery to complain of the acts of our authorized agents, unless he had the countenance of the General Government, and yet we would be slow to believe that if this warden was appointed by the concurrence of the President of the United States, he should have withheld information of the fact from the Government of this State so long a time.

Your Committee are satisfied, from all the information they have obtained, that the inhabitants on this territory, including Madawaska, are well disposed towards this State, and are desirous to be released from British thralldom, and to have the benefit of our laws and institutions.

But we can have no access to them, or they to us, except by passing over British ground, or passing through the wilderness. If the road leading from the military road, and which has been already opened and partially made to the Aroostic, should be continued to the mouth of the Madawaska, it would open a communication between the inhabitants of the town of Madawaska and the adjacent country, and with the Penobscot River, as well as the whole eastern section of our State. This State will then be able to do, what it long since ought to have done, extend the protection of its laws to all its inhabitants. It has been the policy of the British to spare no pains or expence in making and completing a good road on and along the St. John's River, from Fredericton to the town of Madawaska, and thus brought the inhabitants of this town and vicinity into contact and close communication with Fredericton. Your Committee find, that so long ago as 1831, the Legislature of this State authorized the land agent to make a road from the military road of St. John's in conjunction with the land agent of Massachusetts, and appropriated ten per cent. of the sales of timber and land for this object. But the resolve of 1832, authorizing commissioners to cede a portion of our territory for an ample indemnity, introduced a new policy in relation to this territory, and threw doubt and uncertainty over the whole subject—paralyzed the efforts of Massachusetts, and disheartened our people living on this territory, by producing an impression that they were abandoned. Since that time little progress has been made in opening this road. The tract of country through which this road will pass, is known to be of the first quality for settling, and will soon be purchased and taken up by actual settlers. The road will soon become a great thoroughfare for our people in Madawaska and vicinity, and enable them to find a profitable market for their productions at Bangor. In every view we are able to take of the subject, we are clear that every consideration of sound policy requires, that this road should be opened and made; and we believe it to be vitally important to the settlement of this long vexed question, inasmuch as it presents the only practicable mode by which this State can effectually extend the protection of its laws, to the people of this territory. The cost of opening a winter road, as proposed, if one half of the expence is borne by Massachusetts, will not exceed 3,500 dollars. We believe the people of this State are tired of the diplomacy and delay of the General Government, in relation to this territory, and loudly call on the Legislature to have some decided action, to take some effectual measures, to have our laws extended to all the inhabitants of our State, and over every portion of it, and to demand of the General Government that protection and support in the execution of our laws, which it is bound by the Constitution to afford.

Your Committee have dwelt somewhat longer upon the subject of jurisdictional-claims than may appear necessary at the first view in the persuasion that it now presents one of the most important features of the long protracted controversy, in relation to our north-eastern boundary. If the Government of New Brunswick are permitted to exercise uncontrolled jurisdiction over that territory, it is of little consequence to the British Government whether the Boundary ever be settled. Indeed, it is obvious, that every possible scheme of procrastination will be resorted to for avoiding a settlement, so long as doubts exist, that their claim may not be sustained by any fair mode of adjustment.

It is well known, that the chief value of the territory in dispute, to Great Britain, consists in its lying in the only feasible line of communication between Halifax and Quebec; and also as furnishing at the forks of the Madawaska and St. John's Rivers, a military position of great natural advantages. Being persuaded, as that Government must needs be, that the north-west angle of Nova Scotia is the north-east angle of Maine, as described in the Treaty of 1783; and that that angle lies far to the north of Madawaska; and forms the true north-east boundary of the United States, it is but natural to presume that she will con-