

## THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY.

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I shall read you, this morning, a chapter of concessions, submissions and humiliations by which the otherwise fair record of American diplomacy has been dimmed and stained.

And I shall do this, not to cast reproach upon the memory of any of the actors in the deplorable business, whose history culminated, if it did not close, in the so-called Ashburton Treaty, a work of which the indulgent criticism of the most friendly commentator might be borrowed from Sheridan, who, speaking of another convention, said, "It was one of which, although some were glad, nobody was proud." Nor shall I do it with the expectation that anything said or written by me, or by any one at this time, can avail aught towards a correction of the errors and mistakes of the past. But rather in the thought that a paper which may serve in some measure to keep the history and the lesson alive for purposes of warning, of counsel and of suggestion in the future, will be neither unworthy nor unwelcome; and, I will add, with the further impression, that it will not be wholly uninteresting or unprofitable to the present generation to learn something more than, as a general rule, those who compose it know of the particular history of the important, protracted and embittered controversy which preceded that settlement.

And, besides these considerations, I have sought a personal gratification in an opportunity to express my sense of the debt