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what they have already stated, that Great Britain de-
sires the revision of the frontier between her north
American dominions, and those of the United States,
not with any view to an acquisition of territory as
such, but for the purpose of securing her possessions,
and preventing future disputes.

The British government consider the lakes, from
lake Ontario to lake Superior, both inclusive, to be
the natural military frontier of the British possessions
in North America. As the weaker power on the
North American continent, the least capable of act-
ing offensively, and the most exposed to sudden in-
vasion, Great Britain considers the military occupa-
tion of these lakes as necessary to the security of her
dominions. A boundary line equally dividing these
waters, with a right in each nation to arm, both upon
the lakes and upon their shores, is calculated to cre-
ate a contest for naval ascendancy in peace as well as
in war. The power which occupies these lakes
should, as a necessary result, have the military occu-
pation of both shores. In furtherance of this object,
the British government is prepared to propose a bound-
ary. But as this might be misconstrued as an in-
tention to extend their possessions to the southward
of the lakes (which is by no means the object they
have in view) they are disposed to leave the territo-
rial limits undisturbed, and as incident to them, the
free commercial navigation of the lakes, provided that
the American government will stipulate not to main-
tain, or construct, any fortifications upon, or within,
a limited distance of the shores, or maintain, or con-
struct, any armed vessel upon the lakes in question,
or in the rivers which empty themselves into the
same.

If this can be adjusted, there will then remain for
discussion the arrangement of the north western
boundary between lake Superior and the Mississippi,
the free navigation of that river, and such a variation