

will not be abandoned. The adjustment of the controversy will also relieve the United States from much embarrassment in their relations with Great Britain, and terminate those collisions with the British Authorities, which if continued would inevitably prevent the settlement of the territory and endanger the peace of the nation.

I would further suggest the necessity of acting with promptness upon this subject after it shall have received that attentive consideration to which, by its importance to the honour and interests of the State, and the welfare of the United States, it is eminently entitled.

As the Government of Massachusetts has been invited to co-operate in the measures heretofore taken by this Legislature, it may also be proper that she should be requested to unite with us in the proposed arrangement, if upon consideration its adoption should be deemed expedient.

(Signed)

SAMUEL E. SMITH.

Council Chamber, Augusta, February 22, 1832.

## XII.

North-eastern  
Boundary.

Arrest of E. Greely  
Fortifications.

Sir,

Washington, February 3, 1832.

AFTER one of the most fatiguing and uncomfortable journeys I have ever made, I succeeded in arriving at this place last evening. The business of our north-eastern boundary is still before the Senate and in the hands of its Committee of Foreign Relations. I called on the President of the United States this morning, and delivered to him an authentic copy of the report and resolutions, adopted by the Legislature. They will be communicated by the President to the Senate by special message immediately. The only additional fact I deem it necessary to lay before you at this moment is, that among the papers laid before the Senate is a letter from Mr. Bankhead, the British Chargé d'Affaires, to Mr. Livingston, Secretary of State, calling, by order of his Government, on the Government of the United States, to carry into effect the opinion and advice of the Arbitrator, insisting upon its being binding on the United States, and within the limits of the powers delegated to the Arbitrator by the Treaty of Ghent and Convention of September 29, 1827. I will also add that I am met, as I apprehended, at the threshold, with those very difficulties which I suggested, before leaving Augusta, to yourself personally and to the members of the Legislature.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WM. P. PREBLE.

His Excellency Samuel E. Smith, Governor of Maine.

Sir,

Washington, February 15, 1832.

I HAD a long conversation last week with Mr. Tazewell of the Senate, Chairman of their Committee of Foreign Relations. He went into a very full discussion of the subject of our boundary, not so much on the question of abstract right as on that of interest and sound policy. He endeavoured to sustain and enforce the position that Maine, in resisting the advice of the Arbitrator, was jeopardizing her own interests—that by setting aside that advice, Maine would be more likely to fare worse than better—that the decision is far more favorable to her rights and pretensions than he had ever expected it would be—that if set aside, besides the irritating border difficulties, which endanger the peace of the country, the embarrassments arising out of the British possession and pretensions, with the disposition prevalent in New Brunswick, would subject Maine to constant inconvenience and vexation—if not ultimate loss. He was willing to fight if Maine said so; but it was best to pause and weigh the consequences:—and on one point he never felt clearer, viz. that on the score of policy, and with an eye to her own peace and her own best interests, Maine had better acquiesce in the award, than contend farther. Prior to this, some members of our delegation, with myself, had waited on Mr. Calhoun, and subsequently I held a conversation with Mr. Clay. These two gentlemen assume the position that the Senate has nothing to do with the subject in the shape in which it is now before them. In fact they are evidently inclined to seize, with or without just foundation, according to my views, upon mere matters of form, as a justification or excuse for declining to act all. In a word, the result of my experience so far is, that there is a general desire to get rid of the subject, and its inherent difficulties;—by right if it can be done conveniently; by wrong, if no other mode presents itself. We are not, however, without our friends; but to use once more the language of Mr. Tazewell;—notwithstanding all your delegation and you may urge in regard to the award, and, however just your views may be, “with most people that award will still go for something.” While, continued he, I agree with you in most of your abstract propositions, and in some of them probably go still farther than you do, we must look at the thing as practical men—we must consider how other nations will regard us—and we cannot get rid of the fact that the Arbitrator, we agreed to, has pronounced against us. In connection with these remarks, as Mr. T. referred to our delegation, I will beg leave to say, that from all I can learn, I believe they have been faithful advocates of our rights, and are disposed to do every thing in their power to protect the interests of Maine. In regard to our Senators, as their proceedings are in secret session, I cannot have so good means of judging, and, therefore, at present neither form nor express an opinion. Our