

This note was crossed by one from Middleton asking for an interview. The interview took place three days ago, and I learn from Ct. Nesselrode that Mr. Middleton abstained from making any remarks whatever upon *our* negotiation, and had given in to him the projet of a convention which Ct. Nesselrode thought very moderate and reasonable. This projet contains 3 articles. The first assures to both parties the free navigation of the whole of the Pacific—thus quietly getting rid of the Russian maritime pretension. The 2d stipulates that The United States shall not make settlements North nor Russia settlements South of the 55th degree of N. Latitude, and the 3d binds the United States to sell no arms and ammunition to the natives on the Russian American coasts. This projet is, I have no doubt, the modification of that with which Mr. Middleton was originally furnished to negotiate about territorial demarcation and every thing else *without us and to our exclusion*, and that, if he had had to act with me, and had had our appui he would have contended for much more than he now does. Nesselrode and Poletica are also of this opinion—but it is all very well as it is, and we shall each follow our respective courses without collision, as it appears to me, of any sort. The duplicity however of the American Government, as it regards us, has, you may depend upon it, been extreme, and I heartily hope that Squinty Adams may lose his election for it.

I have had three conferences with the Russian Plenipotentiaries—I shall probably have another at the beginning of next week after Nesselrode has seen The Emperor, and that conference I hope may be favorable and final as far as our general agreement goes. This Government is fighting me very hard about the 55th degree which they pretend to adhere to as a point of national dignity being the limit assigned by Paul's charter to the Russian American Company. At my first conference I proposed verbally Chatham Straits, Lynn Canal and Mount Elias or the 140th degree of W. Longitude. This was taken for consideration, and at the 2d conference a contreprojet was offered to me verbally, and afterwards given to me for consideration in writing. I enclose a copy of it. You will see that it is inadmissible. But as it is evident to me that I cannot avoid giving some lisière, however narrow, upon the mainland and as I conscientiously think that there is much reason in an argument which has been strongly urged against my first projet viz: that if Chatham Straits are the boundary, the United States, under their convention with us, will have the right of visiting, to the great annoyance of Russia, all the islands and parages between those Straits and the continent. I gave in at my last conference the amended projet of which I enclose you a copy stating that I was at the end, and beyond the end of my instructions, and that I could really go no further. Much discussion took place, but Nesselrode ended by taking my new projet for reference to The Emperor, and I anxiously hope that at our next meeting I may be told that it will be assented to. If it is, the rest will be matter of easy adjustment,—and we may in a few days finish the Treaty when I shall despatch a Messenger with it to England. I know that I exceed the letter of my instructions in ceding the islands North of Prince of Wales and Duke of York¹ Islands, but I do not think that I am acting contrary to the spirit of them, and if I can get, as I thus should do, the 56th degree as the Southern boundary a lisière of about 30 miles on the continent and the 140th or 139th degree of W. Longitude, we shall effectually secure all the essential objects and interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. Ct. Nesselrode has asked me whether I should object to a stipulation not to sell arms and ammunition to the natives on the Russian Allotment. I have told him that I should not object.

¹Present Zarembo and Wrangell islands,