

conditions as she might think proper to prescribe. To all such as were, in the opinion of the President, required by a proper regard for the security of Maine, and consistent with the constitution, he would have yielded a ready assent. Of that character was he disposed to regard a condition that in a negotiation for the final establishment of a new line, with power on the part of the negotiators to stipulate for the cession or exchange of territory, as the interests and convenience of the parties might be found to require, the State of Maine should be represented by commissioners of her own selection, and that their previous assent should be requisite to make any treaty, containing such stipulation, binding upon her.

These suggestions are not now made as matter of complaint at the decision which the State of Maine has come to, on a matter in which she was at perfect liberty to pursue the course she has adopted, but in justice to the views of the President in making the application.

I am instructed to announce to your excellency, that, by direction of the President, upon due consideration of the result of the late application of the General Government to the State of Maine, on the subject of the northeastern boundary, and in accordance with the expressed wishes of her Legislature, I have informed Mr. Fox of the willingness of this Government to enter into an arrangement with that of Great Britain for the establishment of a joint commission of survey and exploration upon the basis of the original American proposition and the modifications offered by her Majesty's Government; and to apprise you that Mr. Fox, being at present unprovided with full powers for negotiating the proposed convention, has transmitted my communication to his Government, in order that such fresh instructions may be furnished to him, or such other steps taken, as may be deemed expedient on its part.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your excellency's obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

To his excellency EDWARD KENT,
Governor of Maine.