

No. 9.

*Viscount Palmerston to Charles Bankhead, Esq.**Foreign Office, October 14, 1831.*

Sir,

YOU will learn from the instruction, contained in my other despatch of this date, on the subject of the north-eastern boundary, that the communication which you are to make, in the name of His Majesty, to the Government of the United States, extends no farther than to propose a simple and unconditional acceptance of the award of the King of the Netherlands by the United States, and the consequent appointment of commissioners to carry that award into effect; such being, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the only course to be pursued at the present stage of the boundary question, consistently with the respective interests and obligations of the two Governments.

You are nevertheless authorized to intimate privately to the American Minister, upon any suitable occasion, that His Majesty's Government would not consider the formal acceptance of the award by Great Britain and the United States, as necessarily precluding the two Governments from any future modification of the terms of the arrangement prescribed in that instrument, provided it should appear that any particular parts of the boundary line, thus established, were capable of being improved to the mutual convenience and advantage of both countries; and you will state, that, after the award shall have been formally acceded to by both Governments, His Majesty's Government will be ready to enter, with the Government of the United States, into the consideration of the best means of effecting any such modification by reciprocal exchange and concession.

You will, however, be particularly cautious in making any communication of this nature, to guard against the possibility of being misunderstood as inviting negotiation as a substitute for the adoption of the award.

Until the award is mutually adopted, any such concert between the two Governments would be impossible, because each party claiming the whole of the territory in dispute, there is no boundary line between the two, with respect to which modifications could be proposed by either party; but when the award is acquiesced in by both sides, and a boundary line is thus established to which both Governments shall have assented, there will then be a basis upon which exchanges or modifications might reciprocally be effected.

I am, &c.

Charles Bankhead, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 10.

Charles Bankhead, Esq., to Viscount Palmerston — (Received December 29.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 6, 1831.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, a copy of the Message from the President of the United States, delivered, this day, to both Houses of Congress, upon the commencement of the session.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BANKHEAD.

Viscount Palmerston.

&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Extract from the Message of the President.

AFTER our transition from the state of colonies to that of an independent nation, many points were found necessary to be settled between us and Great Britain. Among them was the demarcation of boundaries, not described with sufficient precision in the Treaty of peace. Some of the lines that divide the states and territories of the United States from the British provinces, have been definitively fixed. That, however, which separates us from the provinces of Canada and New Brunswick to the north and the east, was still in dispute when I came into office. But I found arrangements made for its settlement, over which I had no control. The commissioners who had been appointed under the provisions of the Treaty of Ghent, having been unable to agree, a Convention was