

ment alone, instead of an irregular armed force under the orders of a State Government, of whose conduct Her Majesty's Authorities have had the strongest reason to complain. The change will, it is to be hoped, conduce to the maintenance of peace upon the border for the present, and will also eventually secure the safe and prompt delivery of the territory to whichever party shall establish its rightful title thereto.

At the same time, I am not prepared to say what view Her Majesty's Government will take of this movement of the United States' troops adopted as a separate measure, without reference to those other provisions of an amended arrangement for the provisional custody and occupation of the Disputed Territory, which, in pursuance of my instructions, I had proposed to the United States' Government, in communications heretofore addressed both to Mr. Forsyth and to yourself,—and without reference, either, to the well-grounded and reiterated remonstrances of the British Authorities against the establishment of the American post at Fish River.

With regard to the suggestion of adopting the channel of the River St. John as a temporary boundary between the two parties, I must at once state, that Her Majesty's Authorities can, under no circumstances, consent to relinquish the exercise of British jurisdiction through the Madawaska settlements, which extend along the south bank, as well as along the north bank of the St. John's; and that the right will be reserved of provisionally stationing a force of British troops in any part of those settlements, either south or north of the St. John's, where it may be found necessary for the due protection of the inhabitants. There seems no reason, however, to fear that this should lead to collision between the troops of the two nations, if the orders which you inform me are to be furnished to the United States' Commanding Officers, are, as I have no doubt they will be, carefully obeyed.

I avail myself, &c.,
(Signed) H. S. FOX.

Inclosure 5 in No. 35.

Mr. Fox to Lord Sydenham.

(Confidential.)

Dear Lord Sydenham,

Washington, September 1, 1841.

I RECEIVED this day your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, with its several inclosures, brought to me by a special messenger from New York. I had already some days ago, in consequence of statements in the newspapers, questioned Mr. Webster with regard to the reported premature movement of United States' troops from Houlton to the posts in the Disputed Territory; but I could obtain no satisfactory or distinct explanation: he declared to me, that if any premature order for such movement had been given, it was without his knowledge, and that it should be countermanded. Since receiving your despatch, I have this afternoon seen Mr. Webster, and have left with him, at his request, an extract of the principal paragraphs, to be communicated to his colleagues and to the President. I am promised a definite answer to-morrow or the next day, until which time I shall retain the messenger.

I have little doubt from what passed in conversation to-day, that some premature movement has been authorized, and that the fault will be laid upon the hastiness and indiscretion of General Scott, who is now absent from Washington. I must add, however, that I believe the thing has not been done through intentional bad faith, but is owing to the strange and unaccountable state of confusion and discord in which the Government here are now placed, and to the negligent manner in which Mr. Webster seems disposed habitually to treat all official business.

I have also communicated to Mr. Webster copies of Lord Palmerston's despatch to me of the 19th of July, and of the principal part of your despatch of the 3rd of August, leaving out all that relates to the ultimate