

have its origin in the most remote causes. Problems which have lain dormant for centuries may suddenly assume a vital importance for one side or the other, possibly for both. We in each country are now in the situation of two men who have inherited adjoining farms, with old servitudes yet in existence. Such an affair can be settled only in a moment of passionate enthusiasm. This is such a moment.

But the method should vary with the mood; not by commissions, by diplomatic conventions, by formal exchange of arguments; not by remembering past disputes, but forgetting them, and looking to the future in a friendly conversation between the persons immediately concerned. Only the historical sequence of events should be kept in mind, since all our relations are merely a part of general history. From the beginning we on both sides have laboured to remove any cause from which offence might come; but in every case the settlement was delayed until grave danger was actually at hand.

The Ashburton Treaty of 1842 was only effected in sight of war. By this treaty the north-east boundary of the United States was established, but a state of war had already existed. In 1839 hostilities had broken out in Aroostook county. Arrests were made by the authorities of New Brunswick and of Maine; the President was authorized to call out the Militia; ten million dollars were voted for military defence; and General Winfield Scott was sent upon the scene. He was able to arrange a truce on March 21st, 1839, on terms of joint occupancy; and arbitration took the place of war.

The danger had been foreseen; but for fifty years it was allowed to remain. As early as 1794 the Jay Treaty provided for a Commission to decide what the St. Croix river—the Maine boundary—actually was; and four years later the Commission decided that it was the river falling into Passamaquoddy Bay. The islands in that Bay were next in dispute, and by the Treaty of Ghent 1814, this matter also was referred to a Commission. A survey was undertaken in 1817–18, and a further Commission appointed. This body met first at