

if such a concession is made, after what has passed, it will be a dastardly compromise of the country's honour.

On Wednesday, Governor Douglas issued a protest against the occupation of San Juan Island by the Americans, and declared the island to belong to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. His Excellency also sent the inclosed Message to the Vancouver Legislative Assembly yesterday, in which it is declared that the British forces will be landed on the island.

The disputed island lies north-westerly from the entrance to Puget Sound and the mainland of Washington territory, in the vicinity of Port Townsend—the broad beautiful Strait of Fuca being between. Sailing from the Sound to Victoria across the Fuca, San Juan appears to be a part of Vancouver's Island, and the disputed channel cannot be distinguished until you have come down opposite its mouth or junction with the Strait.

Notwithstanding the Treaty, and the loud talk that is made about the commanding importance of San Juan to the Americans, it naturally belongs to the British, and is of infinitely greater value to them than to the United States. The channel in dispute is the gate to the Gulf of Georgia, Fraser river, and British Columbia—mostly British water and British possessions. If this channel is, by the Treaty, determined to be the boundary line, it only gives us a small island of small value, with no advantages, as we own nothing north of it; while to them it is the door-way to all their possessions. This is no reason, however, why the United States should not have the island, if by any right it belongs to her.

To the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Colony of Vancouver's Island.

Gentlemen,

*Government House, Victoria, August 3, 1859.*

I HAVE to communicate, for your information, the intelligence of the landing of a detachment of United States' troops on the Island of San Juan, avowedly for the purpose of forming a military post and asserting the sovereignty of the United States to that island.

Having received no information from any quarter that the United States ever contemplated taking possession of any part of the disputed territory while the boundary line remained unsettled, I am forced to believe that the late unwarrantable and discourteous act, so contrary to the usages of civilized nations, has originated in error, and been undertaken without the authority of that Government.

That impression is corroborated by a letter (a copy of which is here inclosed) from the Hon. W. L. Marcy, Secretary for the United States, dated Washington, 12th July, 1855, to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, which contains instructions from the President of the United States to the Governor of the Washington territory, and displays, in the clearest manner, the conciliatory and moderate views entertained by his Government on the subject of the disputed territory.

Though the right of Great Britain to all the islands situated to the westward of "Vancouver" or "Rosario" Straits is to our minds clearly established by the first Article of the Treaty of 1846, and though those islands have, since the foundation of this colony, been considered as a dependency of Vancouver's Island, it is well known, to you, Gentlemen, that, out of respect to the construction that has been put upon that Treaty by the Government of the United States, we have abstained from exercising exclusive sovereignty over them.

Convinced that any assumption on either side of exclusive right to the disputed territory would simply be a fruitless and mischievous waste of energy, neither detracting from nor adding force to the claims of either nation, wise and considerate policy enjoins upon us the part of leaving so important a national question for settlement by the proper authorities, and of avoiding complications foreign to the views and wishes of, and probably embarrassing to, both Governments.

Immediately on being informed of the landing of United States' troops at San Juan, Her Majesty's ship "Tribune," under the command of