

No. 16.

Mr. Addington to Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 4, 1844.

AS the Boundary operations will, by the activity with which they have been conducted on our part, have been greatly advanced by the close of this season, Lord Aberdeen hopes that you will be enabled to relieve the country from some part of the large expense with which those operations have hitherto been attended, by the discharge of a portion of the persons employed upon them, and especially of the Sappers of the Royal Engineers.

I am accordingly directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to convey to you full authority to make reductions in the establishment placed under your charge, whether in officers or men, to any extent which you may consider compatible with the efficient execution of the work which will still remain to be done in the course of the next season.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) H. U. ADDINGTON.

No. 17.

Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 30.)

My Lord,

Quebec, December 7, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the conclusion of the operations of the Commission for the season, and I have the greater satisfaction in doing so, because I am enabled to say that the Line of Boundary has been cut to the source of Hall's Stream.

Since the date of my despatch of May 8, the cutting of the long south-west line, which had been so successfully run by Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon during March and April, had been in progress, and was far advanced, when the general works of the season recommenced, according to an agreement between Mr. Smith and myself, on the 1st of June.

I will, for the sake of clearness, divide my report under the different heads of Astronomy, Survey, and Cutting of Boundary.

1st. *Astronomy.*—Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon went to the Valley of the St. John's the first week in June. They were directed to connect, astronomically, the point on the North-West Branch, with the parallel of latitude $46^{\circ} 25'$ on the South-West Branch.

This was done, and the Line traced between those points by the 21st of August. By the 31st of August the actual Boundary was cut; thus completing it from Lake Pohenagamook to the South-West Branch. The long south-west line was $64\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the south line $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Upon being released from this work, the labourers were conducted by Mr. Wilkinson to the Kennebec Road, that they might be employed in cutting the Boundary in the high lands, an account of which shall presently be given. Mr. Wilkinson made his way through the woods, taking the line of the South-West Branch to the Metjarmette Portage, where he fell in with the surveying lines of Mr. Featherstonhaugh, and so brought his men, about 140, to the Kennebec Road.

I am not able, without making my report too long, to enter into the difficulties he encountered; but I must state, that the duty was performed with a good deal of judgment and intelligence.

Lieutenant Pipon having finished what was necessary on the South-West Branch, was directed to proceed to Quebec to establish himself near the citadel, and then, in conjunction with Captain Robinson, who remained on the North-West Branch, to connect that point of the Boundary with Quebec. They were to endeavour to do this by signal,—by flashes of