

Governor strengthen the belief that his influence would be exerted to bring about such a settlement of the question.

In his recent tour, he abstained, I am informed, from visiting the Fish River post; and I have ascertained that the projected road from the Restook to the St. John has not been opened.

The State newspapers, I observe, have adverted to this disposition of their Governor in reference to the Madawaska settlement; the "Bangor Democrat" expressing a hope "that he has sufficient firmness to stand by the people, and protect the State."

The division of the Disputed Territory into townships, and the sale of the lands as far north as the Restook, may be expected to lead to a further occupation of the valuable lands south of the St. John's in case of any delay, and the land-jobbers and speculators are interested in opposing any settlement which would exclude them from it. This they can most effectually do by the strenuous assertion of the rights of the Americans to the whole territory to the Metis Lake which they claim.

That these exaggerated claims have hitherto been effectually opposed by the same party to a reasonable agreement between the Governments, I am aware the rejection of the King of Holland's award having been referable to this cause; but in the absence, as at present, of any popular excitement, I am induced to think that a prompt and decided effort on the part of those in authority, to define the Boundary, reserving all discussion of the territorial rights of either Government, might be successful in a simultaneous agreement to appoint Commissioners of Survey and Arbitration for the deliberate adjustment of their respective claims on the basis of pecuniary compensation.

From the tenour of the resolutions passed in the present year by other States of the Union, I infer that such an agreement, from its equitable and pacific tendency, would have their support; and as Massachusetts has a right to half the proceeds of the sale of the townships, it would fully satisfy their claims.

In Maine, also, there is assuredly a party favourable to the moderate views of their Governor, and who, in their present financial difficulties, would prefer the prospect of pecuniary compensation to the doubtful issue of an expensive contest undertaken in opposition to so fair and rational a proposition for the termination of the dispute.

In this view I consider that if the sentiments of the British Government in favour of such a mode of adjustment were generally known, it would strengthen the American Ministers and the friends of peace throughout the Union in supporting them. The discussion of the rights of either Government, which is so peculiarly exciting upon both sides of the border, would cease to threaten collision as at present, and the country would be immediately settled by defining the limits of the jurisdiction.

The annual elections for the Governor of Maine will take place in the autumn, and the re-election of the present Governor will probably depend upon the tenour of the intermediate negotiations in this perplexing question.

That the American Ministers would be unable to agree to such a convention without the concurrence of the States claiming the Territory in dispute is probable; they would, however, communicate the proposal of the British Government to the Authorities in those States, and their acceptance or rejection of it would depend upon the issue of the debates in the respective legislatures, in which it is not to be expected that the same feeling would exist which the discussion of the question of right has hitherto excited; and were it to be otherwise, such equitable views it might be hoped would conciliate support in the other parts of the Union.

The negotiation for the final settlement of the Boundary Question, except upon a basis of compromise and compensation, would, as I apprehend, lead as heretofore to no practicable agreement. The rural population of Maine, who have been educated in the belief of their right to the whole Territory in dispute, are opposed to all fair discussion; and the opportunity which interested speculators have of exciting the people, and through their legislative proceedings, of enlisting the sympathies of other