

*Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received
January 14, 1844.)*

My Lord,

Washington, December 26, 1843.

I DO not propose to make your Lordship a report of the proceedings of this Commission from the period at which my last communication ended until I return to Quebec, and until the whole of the operations which belong to the first year have been terminated. They are not yet quite finished for the winter overtook us and interrupted the transmission of the chronometers by the river. Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon were therefore obliged to suspend their work, and remain waiting until the ice on the St. John should be able to bear a sleigh. In the meantime they have housed themselves at their stations, which are, Captain Robinson on the St. John, at the intersection of the line cut by the American party in order to measure the ten miles to the North-West Branch,—it is about a mile below the mouth of the North-West Branch; and Lieutenant Pipon at the mouth of the Great Black River.

The comparison of chronometers having been completed between those stations, the first year's work will have been accomplished, and we shall have the means of ascertaining the difference of longitude between the outlet of Lake Pohenagamook and the point on the North-West Branch, and, therefore, we hope of running a line between them in March. It will be a trial line, and it is not to be expected that it will be quite correct; but Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon have been so careful and so successful in their astronomical operations that we look with confidence to a good result of the calculations which will guide the true direction of the South-West Line.

Your Lordship will understand that the operations of this year will have been shortly as follows:

The North Line from the monument to the St. John River, explored, cut out from end to end thirty feet wide, surveyed, and marked, almost, not quite, with cast-iron monuments.

The survey of the St. John from the Grand Falls to the St. Francis, and the apportioning of the islands.

The survey of the St. Francis and the Lake Pohenagamook.

The fixing of the outlet of Lake Pohenagamook.

The measuring of the ten miles from the St. John to the North-West Branch.

The survey of the country towards the St. Lawrence, to ascertain the state of the case as regards the seven miles required by the Treaty.

The fixing within a few feet of the point on the North-West Branch.

And a chain of astronomical observations from the Grand Falls to the outlet of Lake Pohenagamook, and from thence to a point near the mouth of the North-West Branch, where the line cut and measured for the ten miles intersects the St. John.

The proceedings of next year will be carried over a very large portion of country at the same time. We propose to run the South-West Line, the South Line, to survey the highlands, and perhaps to examine the 45th parallel of latitude at the same time. The whole is perfectly feasible if your Lordship will approve of a greater strength of Sappers to be added to the Commission.

The six non-commissioned officers of that corps we have now are disposed of thus:

Each astronomer has two attached to him, and each surveyor one.

Next year each astronomer will still require two, but for the highlands each surveyor will require eight, making sixteen; two are already at their disposal, therefore we want fourteen.

I ask for this addition in the confident expectation that the whole of our work will come very close to an end next year. I do not think entirely to an end, but still very nearly so.

Each of the Sappers will have to work by himself, and therefore should