

rities. It is proper, therefore, that you should immediately place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and press the importance of early action in regard to the matter of the north-eastern boundary, by considerations and arguments drawn from the existing state of things on our frontier, and the immediate jeopardy to which the interests and well-being of the two nations are thus exposed. You will also say that the President sincerely laments the delay, whatever its cause may be, that has prevented the adoption of measures, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to meet his just expectations, by advancing the negotiation for the adjustment of the whole controversy; yet he confidently hopes that the motives, derivable from a knowledge of recent events on our borders, are too cogent to be disregarded, and that Her Majesty's Ministers will hasten to take proper steps to avert the calamity which now impends over the two countries. What has delayed instructions to Mr. Fox from Her Majesty's Government, it is impossible to conjecture. That gentleman informed me, in one of our interviews on the occurrence of the recent disturbances, that Mr. Hudson, his Secretary of Legation, lately arrived here, had seen in the Foreign Office, before he left London, a *projet* of the Convention for exploration and survey, which was intended to be proposed to the United States. This circumstance was the groundwork of the confident expectation, you will see, that Mr. Fox expressed of an early settlement of the principal question—an expectation which the President has a right to presume will not be disappointed.

You will perceive from the newspapers, that Congress, at the close of their late session, passed a law providing for a special mission to Great Britain, and giving additional powers to the President, in certain contingencies, to place the country in a state of defence, should measures of that character ultimately prove to be necessary. The place of negotiation, you are aware, has been already agreed upon; yet the President, desiring to conform to the indicated wishes of Congress, is willing to change it to London, should it be agreeable to Her Majesty's Government, and if it would, in their opinion, hasten or facilitate the final adjustment of the controversy. As the subject presses, you will urge the earliest determination on this point, and communicate it as soon as it is made known to you, that the present excitement may be allayed.

Mr. Fox, in a recent conversation with me, expressed his apprehension that the passage of this bill might be viewed by Her Majesty's Government as a minatory act on the part of the United States; to which observation I replied, by suggesting, that it was scarcely possible that any misapprehension of that kind could arise, since the fact was obvious, that the enactment was only in answer to the threat of the British provincial authorities. In this light you will of course regard it, in your intercourse with Lord Palmerston, and will, it is not doubted, be able to prevent any sinister interpretation of a measure so very evidently one of precaution.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN FORSYTH.

Inclosure 24 in No. 30.

Mr. Stevenson to Mr. Forsyth.

Sir,

*Legation of the United States,
London, April 5, 1839.*

I RECEIVED by the *Liverpool* steamer, which arrived last week, your despatch of the 6th of March, with the printed documents containing the President's messages to Congress, and other important papers relating to the recent occurrences upon our north-eastern frontier. By the same arrival, the Government here received official accounts from Mr. Fox and the Governor of New Brunswick. The *Scotland*, which preceded by a few hours the *Liverpool*, brought accounts to the 6th. Those by the *Liverpool* were to the 10th ultimo.

On Wednesday, the day your despatch was received, the motion which had been made by Sir C. Grey, for the production of papers in relation to the north-