

from the Straits of Fuca into the Gulf of Georgia, was known to exist when that Treaty was made, neither had any channel which could be safely navigated by sailing ships been discovered even to that day, except Vancouver's Strait, which, up to that hour, was the route invariably taken by sailing ships bound to and from the Gulf of Georgia.

Mr. Douglas added that something like proof in respect to the true line of boundary might be gathered from the common opinion of the day. Now, they who lived almost on the spot, had always believed that Vancouver's Strait was the true line of boundary between the two countries, and as a proof that they were not alone in that opinion, Mr. Douglas inclosed Mr. Fremont's map, on which the boundary line was carefully traced through the middle of Vancouver's Straits.

Colonial Office;
May 20, 1854.

In a subsequent report, dated February 27, 1854, Mr. Douglas stated that a claim had been vaguely made by the Oregon Assembly to the Arro Islands when dividing the Oregon territory into districts, and that the revenue collector in that territory had threatened to make a seizure of British property on the Island of San Juan. Mr. Douglas had, therefore, taken such measures as appeared to him to be proper for the protection of British property. Not having any military force at his disposal, which, moreover, he should hesitate to use on such an occasion, he proposed to effect the protection of British property by the operation of the civil law, and he had, therefore, appointed Mr. Griffin, of the Hudson's Bay Company's service, to be Justice of the Peace for the district of San Juan, and had charged him to apprehend and commit for trial any person who might disturb the Queen's peace within his jurisdiction. Should the United States' collector appear there for any unlawful purpose, he would be treated as a common offender, unless he brought with him a large force, in which case Mr. Griffin would apply for needful support in order to enforce the law.

To Mr. Crampton, No. 139;
June 26, 1854.

Upon this, Lord Clarendon instructed Mr. Crampton to call Mr. Marcy's attention to Mr. Clayton's note of the 29th of October, 1849, and again to press upon the United States' Government the importance of appointing a Commission to mark out the boundary line.

Hudson's Bay Company;
June 26, 1854.

A few days after that instruction was sent off, the