

are the views both of principles and of fact, on which the disputants on either side have proceeded.

To render that intervention effectual, I have therefore thought it necessary to delegate the task of examining this dispute, and of reporting on it, to two officers of Her Majesty's Royal Engineers, Captain Pipon and Lieutenant Henderson, assisted by Her Majesty's Attorney-General of Nova Scotia. To the two former it will especially belong, to ascertain, by actual inspection, aided by their professional science, all the facts in dispute respecting the natural formation, and the military and other advantages of the territory in question. To these gentlemen, aided by their legal colleague, will then belong the duty of considering, and reporting for the information and guidance of Her Majesty's Government, whether there is any line which could be drawn for the demarcation of the two provinces, which would satisfy the strict legal claims of each. If they should find it impossible to discover such a line, their next duty will be to consider and report how a line could be drawn which would combine the greatest amount of practical convenience to both provinces with the least amount of practical inconvenience to either; adverting at the same time, to such interests (if there be any such), as the empire at large may have in the adjustment of this question. These reports, when complete, will be made to Her Majesty's Government, and, I trust, will form the basis of an early and satisfactory decision of this controversy.

*(Blue-book, 1851, 61.)*

Nothing could be more direct, positive but withal diplomatic than the wording of this letter which is worthy of the great statesman who dictated it. It is interesting to note this connection of Gladstone with our history; it is no small service he rendered New Brunswick when he caused the British Government to intervene so skillfully and, as it finally proved, so effectually.

It is of interest to notice how the two provinces received Gladstone's proposition. Governor Colebrooke of New Brunswick simply acknowledges the receipt of the despatch, but Earl Cathcart submits a report of a committee of the Executive Council of Lower Canada dated July 24, 1846 which is of no little interest to our present subject. It reads in part thus (Blue-book 84):

The Committee of Council having carefully reflected on the above-mentioned Despatch [from Gladstone of July 2, 1846] which your Excellency was pleased to communicate for their information, beg leave respectfully to submit some observations thereon for your Excellency's consideration.

They have felt some little disappointment that a Commission should have been thought necessary in this matter, as from the Despatch of the 3rd March last, they had, as it appears, erroneously supposed that the Report therein alluded to was all that was required to enable Her Majesty's Government to dispose of the question between the two Provinces.

This feeling has, perhaps, been strengthened by the strong hope that was felt by the members of the Committee, that Her Majesty's Government would have assumed the decision of a question involving only the import of the words of the Home Government, in erecting the Province of New Bruns-