

ing the whole before the arbitrator. This, too, in the face of the note of the undersigned to Mr. Pakenham, of the 30th August last, by which the President had asserted, in the most solemn form, the title of the United States to the whole territory. Even if there were not other conclusive reasons for declining the proposition, this alone would be deemed sufficient by the President.

The President heartily concurs with the British government in their regret that all attempts to settle the Oregon question by negotiation have hitherto failed. He cannot, however, concur with that government in the opinion that a resort to arbitration, and especially to an arbitration on the terms proposed, would be followed by happier consequences. On the contrary, he believes that any attempt to refer this question to a third power would only involve it in new difficulties.

In declining this proposition, the President refers to the sentiment expressed in the note of the undersigned of the 30th August last, to which allusion has already been made, that he "cherishes the hope that this long pending controversy may yet be finally adjusted in such a manner as not to disturb the peace or interrupt the harmony now so happily subsisting between the two nations."

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Pakenham assurances of his distinguished consideration.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Right Hon. RICHARD PAKENHAM, &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Buchanan.*

WASHINGTON, January 6, 1846.

The undersigned, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, has had the honor to receive the note of the Secretary of State of the United States, dated the 3d instant, in answer to that of the undersigned, dated 27th ultimo, containing a proposal for referring the question of an equitable partition of the Oregon territory to the arbitration of some friendly sovereign or State.

The undersigned will take an early opportunity to transmit this communication to her Majesty's government.

The undersigned has the honor to renew to Mr. Buchanan the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

R. PAKENHAM.

The Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Buchanan.*

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1846.

With an anxious desire to contribute, by every means in his power, to a satisfactory conclusion of the question pending between the two governments respecting Oregon, the undersigned, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, has reflected on the contents