

No. 12.

Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord,

Quebec, May 8, 1844.

I HAVE the satisfaction to be able to communicate to your Lordship the successful tracing of the south-west line between Lake Pohenagamook and the North-West Branch, to effect which we have been in the woods since the 1st of March.

Captain Robinson took his station at the north-west branch and Lieutenant Pipon at Lake Pohenagamook. Mr. Scott conducted the cutting party of Captain Robinson.

On the 17th of April the heads of the lines came in sight of each other. They were prolonged until abreast of each other, when the distance between them was found to be only 340 feet, being an actual error of $170\frac{1}{2}$ feet, a quantity so small for the nature of the operation, that it will be considered a result reflecting great credit upon the two officers, upon whose observations and calculations the work depended. I mean Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon.

The whole length of the Line is $64\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Mr. Scott ran a line $42\frac{1}{2}$ miles and Lieutenant Pipon's men 22 miles. The observations upon which the direction of the Line was calculated, your Lordship will remember to be those made during the winter, which in fact were not completed until the first week in February.

The error of $170\frac{1}{2}$ feet is now in process of correction, indeed it is probably already corrected.

The next operation will be to cut the Line to the proper width; but that is easy of execution. It will be under the superintendence of Mr. Wilkinson, and will be finished by the middle or end of July.

During the months of February, March, and part of April, two Sappers were successfully employed in surveying on the ice the River Mataway-quam, which falls into the North-West Branch, and the Great Black River.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, Lt.-Col.

No. 13.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 3, 1844.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th ultimo, in which you report the proceedings of the English portion of the Commission since you recommenced active operations in March.

Her Majesty's Government have been much gratified in learning the successful result which combined science and energy have effected in tracing the Line from Lake Pohenagamook to the north-west branch of the St. John in the short space of time which has elapsed since you entered again upon your duties; and I have much pleasure in conveying to you, and through you, to Captain Robinson, Lieutenant Pipon, Mr. Scott, and the men serving under them, the entire approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.