

herself constructed a permanent railroad over a large part of the territory north of the St. John's, which, it is understood, was very thoroughly repaired the present season, and over which her subjects are constantly passing.

The last allegation is, "that land surveyors, acting under the authority of the State, are employed in marking out lots and townships within the same portion of the disputed territory, and that sales of land are being made with deeds regularly drawn under the authority of Maine."

That Maine is not managing, in the particulars mentioned, these lands upon the Aroostook, and those south of the St. John's, in the same manner that she has been accustomed to since her separation from Massachusetts, and as that State managed them prior to that period, is true. For the last thirty years we have been occasionally surveying and lotting these lands, granting them for literary, charitable, and religious purposes, and selling in small lots to actual settlers. And has this Boundary Question so far advanced, it may be asked, that we cannot now do, with a remonstrance on the part of the British Government, what we have been so long in the habit of doing? Has the almost interminable negotiations—all the efforts that have been put forth—all the events that have occurred,—especially the exciting events of the last year,—but served to weaken our title, diminish our rights, and curtail our privileges? Sure, I am, that Maine will not readily adopt such a view, or quietly yield to its consequences. She has been indulging the hope that some progress towards an acknowledgment of her rights, and the acquisition of her property, had been made, and I am well persuaded she has no disposition, at the present time, to make any retrograde movement.

In compliance with your request, I have now communicated the facts upon which the complaints of the British Government are supposed to be founded. In doing it, and in the accompanying remarks, I have had no intention or desire of producing irritation, or adding, in any degree, to the excitement already existing. This subject is far too momentous, and too nearly involves the peace of the countries interested, to justify any remarks founded in passion or feeling. But it is due to the State, whose organ, upon this occasion, I am, as well as to the whole country, to speak plainly, and without disguise. And under this solemn impression, I must say, that Maine, in my opinion, has done nothing which she was not fully justified in doing, and nothing which she will not be ready to defend with her best powers. And further, that though she has not yet taken military possession of the disputed territory, a continued disposition, on the part of the British Government, to delay a settlement of the Boundary Question, will not fail, in my opinion, to induce such a step, whatever may be the consequences, should she not be relieved from that responsibility by the action of the General Government.

With the most earnest desire for a just, peaceful, and speedy settlement of the question, I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN FAIRFIELD,
Governor of Maine.

Inclosure 62 in No. 30.

The Governor of Maine to the President of the United States.

State of Maine, Executive Department,

Augusta, December 23, 1839.

Sir,

IT having been reported to me, that a large number of British troops had been stationed at Temiscouata Lake, in the disputed territory, and seeing extracts from the provincial papers confirmatory of these reports, I deemed it proper to apply directly to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, which I did by letter of the 12th instant, to ascertain whether these reports were well founded or not. His answer, under date of December 19th, I received yesterday, while on my way to this place. My letter and the reply, are both herewith inclosed. It will