

No. 6.

Charles Bankhead, Esq. to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 22.)

(Extract.)

Washington, July 21, 1831.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Mr. Preble, Minister from the United States to the Netherlands, arrived at New York some days ago.

Mr. Vaughan informed your Lordship, in his despatch of the 12th of April, that Mr. Preble had obtained leave of absence for the purpose of explaining to his Government the reasons which induced him to protest against the decision of the King of the Netherlands upon the subject of the disputed territory. The same reserve which was manifested upon that question by Mr. Van Buren towards His Majesty's Minister, has been continued to me on the part of the present Secretary of State, Mr. Livingston. I was, however, informed by that gentleman, some days ago, that a reference would be had to the State of Maine before any determination could be taken by the general Government; and, in corroboration of this remark, I find that Mr. Preble, instead of proceeding direct to Washington, has left New York for Maine, for the purpose, I presume, of collecting the sentiments of the authorities of that State upon the question at issue.

No opinion on the part of the United States can be expected before the autumn; but I am not altogether without hopes, that the pretensions of the State of Maine, as put forth in the resolutions of their legislature, will be much softened, and that an acquiescence will, at last, be given to the opinion of the Royal Arbitrator.

Mr. Van Buren, it is understood, will leave this country for England shortly after the arrival of Mr. McLane, who is expected in the course of next month. The *Potomac* frigate, which is to convey Mr. Van Buren, is lying in readiness at New York.

No. 7.

Charles Bankhead, Esq. to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 22.)

(Extract.)

New York, August 23, 1831.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship in my despatch of July 21, Mr. Preble, late Minister of the United States at the Hague, arrived at Washington; and whatever were the sentiments and wishes of the State of Maine, in relation to the disputed territory, they were, I presume, at that time communicated to the President and Secretary of State.

I learn from Mr. Livingston that Mr. Van Buren has been instructed to make some communications to His Majesty's Government upon the subject of the decision of the King of the Netherlands, but of the exact nature of them he did not acquaint me. Mr. Livingston seemed to be ignorant of the determination of the British Government, with reference to that decision, *officially* expressed, and Mr. Van Buren, I believe, is directed to ask, *officially*, the views of the British Government upon this subject.

I learn from an authority which I have no reason to doubt, that before the President can consent to the provisions contained in the royal award, it will be necessary to receive the approbation of the Senate, as the President has no power of himself to alienate any part of the territory of an individual State. This is the language of the persons most conversant with the feelings of the State of Maine, and it coincides with the communication made to me by Mr. Livingston, that the decision of this Government cannot be expected before the meeting of Congress.

Any other measure which may be taken between the two Governments, of the nature of a Convention, would be equally subject to the approval of the Senate of the United States.