

to the future settlement of the question. I also agree with you that, pending a reference of the matter to the Home Government, the most prudent course, in the present disorganised state of the Cabinet of Washington, will be to limit the understanding or agreement to the substitution of United States' regular troops for the civil posse of Maine in the valley of the Aroostook, and at Fort Jarvis, asserting our determination under all circumstances to maintain our jurisdiction over the Madawaska Settlements on the south, as well as the north bank of the St. John's below Fish River, and reserving to ourselves the right of stationing troops there, if requisite. On this latter point, indeed, I shall suggest to Sir R. D. Jackson, that unless there be some strong military objection to such an arrangement, a portion of our forces should be at once stationed on the south bank, with a view more effectually to protect Her Majesty's subjects, and to mark, most distinctly, our determination to maintain our jurisdiction there.

If these arrangements can be made we may, for the present moment, defer the other points to which you refer, respecting the appointment of commissioners, and the prohibition of building and road making, although I attach great importance to the first, and would wish you to urge it strongly on the Government; and if the officers in command of the United States' troops act in the spirit of Mr. Webster's communication to you, and the instructions to General Eustis, we shall certainly be in a better position in respect to the Disputed Territory, than at any time since the Convention between General Scott and Sir J. Harvey, and the unfortunate contravention of it by the establishment of the Fort at Fish River, which was permitted by that officer.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) SYDENHAM.

No. 37.

*Mr. Fox to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 30.)*

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

*Washington, October 12, 1841.*

UPON receiving Lord Palmerston's despatch No. 23, of the 24th of August, relating to the North-Eastern Boundary Negotiation, I had a conference with Mr. Webster upon the subject. I found him entirely unacquainted with the last previous movements of the two Governments in that negotiation, and, consequently, unprepared with a definite answer to the proposals contained in Lord Palmerston's despatch. In order to understand the meaning of that despatch, it was absolutely necessary that Mr. Webster should make himself acquainted with the details of the last previous proposals of the two Governments, contained respectively in the British Draft of Convention presented by me to Mr. Forsyth on the 28th of July, 1840, and in the American Counter-Draft delivered to me shortly afterwards by Mr. Forsyth, and forwarded to Her Majesty's Government in my despatch No. 23 of 1840. Under these circumstances, I gave to Mr. Webster a copy of Lord Palmerston's despatch, which copy, together with the two documents above-mentioned, namely the British Draft, and the American Counter-Draft of Convention of 1840, he has carried with him to his residence in Massachusetts, where he is now staying. I hope that upon his return to Washington in the course of next month, he will be prepared to resume the negotiation. From several conversations which I have had with Mr. Webster, I am induced to believe that as far as his own wishes and opinion go, he would be very willing to conclude the dispute at once by a compromise, and by the adoption of what has generally, in the course of the negotiation, been termed a conventional line of boundary. But I am not yet aware what particular terms of compromise would satisfy Mr. Webster; nor, which is of equal moment, what means he would possess of rendering such terms of compromise as he might accept, acceptable also to the State of Maine.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. S. FOX.

*Reynolds  
No. 267.*