

No. 32.

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

My Lord,

Washington, October 12, 1841.

UPON receiving Lord Palmerston's despatch 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 of August 15, 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.

---