

## DISPUTED TERRITORY.

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RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 8 April 1845;—for,

"COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Sydenham to Lord John Russell, dated  
the 9th day of August 1841, respecting the Provisional Occupation of the  
DISPUTED TERRITORY, and of the subsequent CORRESPONDENCE thereon."

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }  
9 April 1845. }

G. W. HOPE.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 9 April 1845.*

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— No. 1. —

(No. 104.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Sydenham to Lord John Russell.

No. 1.  
Lord Sydenham to  
Lord John Russell.  
9 August 1841.

My Lord,

Kingston, 9 August 1841.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has taken place, relative to the occupation of the disputed territory by the regular troops of the United States, instead of by the civil possé of Maine, pending the final settlement of the boundary question, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information, the copy of a despatch which I recently received from Mr. Fox, together with a copy of my answer.

It was of course impossible for me, consistently with the instructions which I had received from your Lordship, and with the protection which the Government is bound to afford to all Her Majesty's subjects, to consent to Mr. Webster's proposals that the British troops should be restricted to the north bank of the St. John's. It is true that, from considerations of convenience, they are now and have always been posted on that bank, but the knowledge that, in case of necessity, they would immediately cross to the south bank, affords in reality to the Madawaska settlers on that bank, as perfect a protection as if the troops were quartered among them; but this virtual protection would be at once lost were the troops debarred from crossing the river, and the attempts of the people of Maine to bring those settlers under their authority would be altogether unchecked, for it could scarcely be expected that the troops of the United States would interfere to prevent such attempts. This is so obvious that I trust the Federal Government will acquiesce in the reasonableness of the objection; but if not, it would be better that matters should remain in their present state, unsatisfactory as it is, than that, by any further concession on our part, we should strengthen the pretensions and justify the encroachments which, in defiance of the arrangement with Sir J. Harvey, the people of Maine have persevered in making during the last three years.

I have, &c.

(signed) Sydenham.