

not be agreed to likewise for the boundary eastward from the River Connecticut?

Her Majesty's Government cannot refrain from again pressing this proposition upon the serious consideration of the Government of the United States, as the arrangement which would be best calculated to effect a prompt and satisfactory settlement between the two parties.

The Government of the United States, indeed, while it expressed a doubt of its being able to obtain the assent of Maine to the above-mentioned proposal, did, nevertheless, express its readiness to apply to the State of Maine, for the assent of that State to the adoption of another conventional line, which should make the River St. John from its source to its mouth the boundary between the two countries. But it is difficult to understand upon what grounds an expectation would have been formed, that such a proposition could be entertained by the British Government.

For such an arrangement would give to the United States even greater advantages than they would obtain, by an unconditional acquiescence in their claim to the whole of the disputed territory; because such an arrangement would, in the first place, give to Maine all that part of the disputed territory which lies to the south of the St. John, and would, in the next place, in exchange for the remaining part of the disputed territory which lies to the north of the St. John, add to the State of Maine a large district of New Brunswick, lying between the United States Boundary and the southern part of the course of the St. John, a district smaller, indeed, in extent, but much more considerable in value, than the portion of the disputed territory which lies to the north of the St. John.

But with respect to a conventional line generally, the Government of Washington has stated, that it has not at present the powers constitutionally requisite for treating for such a line, and has no hopes of obtaining such powers, until the impossibility of establishing the line described by the Treaty shall have been more completely demonstrated by the failure of another attempt to trace that line by a local survey.

Under these circumstances, it appears that a conventional line cannot be at present agreed upon, and that that mode of settlement is, in the existing state of the negotiation, impossible.

Thus, then, the award of the King of the Netherlands has been abandoned by both parties, in consequence of its rejection by the American Senate; and a negotiation between the two Governments for a conventional line, suited to the interests and convenience of the two parties has for the present been rendered impossible, by difficulties arising on the part of the United States; and both Governments are averse to a new arbitration. In this state of things, the Government of the United States has proposed to the British Cabinet that another attempt should be made to trace out a boundary, according to the letter of the Treaty, and that a Commission of Exploration and Survey should be appointed for that purpose.

Her Majesty's Government have little expectation that such a Commission could lead to any useful result; and on that account, would be disposed to object to the measure; but at the same time, they are so unwilling to reject the only plan now left, which seems to offer a chance of any further advance in this long-pending matter, that they will not withhold their consent to such a Commission, if the principle upon which it is to proceed can be satisfactorily settled.

The United States Government have proposed two modes in which such a Commission might be constituted; first, that it might consist of Commissioners, named in equal numbers by each of the two Governments, with an umpire to be named by some friendly European Power; secondly, that it might be entirely composed of scientific Europeans to be selected by a friendly Sovereign, and might be accompanied in its operations by agents of the two different parties, in order that such agents might give to the Commissioners assistance and information.

If such a Commission were to be appointed, Her Majesty's Government think that the first of the two modes of constructing it would be the best; and that it should consist of members chosen in equal numbers, by each of the two Governments. It might, however, be better that the umpire should be selected by the members of the Commission themselves, rather than that the two Governments should apply to a third Power to make such a choice.

The object of this Commission, as understood by Her Majesty's Government,