

## OREGON.

*Documents accompanying the President's Message.*

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

*Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster.*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, 1842.

SIR,—With reference to our recent conversation upon the question of the Oregon or northwestern boundary, when I conveyed to you the desire of her Majesty's Government that instructions should at an early day be addressed to the United States Minister in London, empowering him to treat with such persons as may be appointed by Her Majesty on the part of Great Britain for the final settlement of that question, I have now the honour to enclose to you the extract of a despatch addressed to me on the subject by the Earl of Aberdeen, in which the wishes of Her Majesty's Government are fully and satisfactorily set forth. I feel persuaded that the great importance of the matter at issue, and the friendly and conciliatory manner of Lord Aberdeen's proposal, will induce the President of the United States to bestow thereupon his early and serious attention.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

H. S. FOX.

[INCLOSURE.]

Foreign Office, Oct. 18, 1842.

SIR,—The ratifications of the treaty concluded on the 9th of August between Great Britain and the United States, were exchanged by me on the 13th instant with the Minister of the United States, accredited to the Court of Her Majesty.

The more important question of the disputed boundary between Her Majesty's North American provinces and the United States being settled, and the feelings which have been mutually produced in the people of both countries being evidently favourable, and indicative of a general desire to continue on the best footing with each other, it has appeared to Her Majesty's Government that both parties would act wisely in availing themselves of so auspicious a moment to endeavour to bring to a settlement the only remaining subject of territorial difference, which, although not so hazardous as that of the northeastern boundary, is, nevertheless, even at this moment, not only a risk to the good understanding between the two countries, and may, in the course of time, be attended with the same description of danger to the mutual peace as the question which has recently been adjusted—I speak of the line of boundary west of the Rocky Mountains.

You are aware that Lord Ashburton was furnished with specific and detailed instructions with respect to the treatment of this point of difference between the two Governments, in the general negotiations with which he was intrusted, and which he has brought to a satisfactory issue.

For reasons which it is not necessary here to state at length, that point, after having been made the subject of conference with the American Secretary of State, was not further pressed. The main ground alleged by His Lordship for abstaining from proposing to carry on the discussion with regard to the question of the north-west boundary, was the apprehension, lest, by so doing, the settlement of the far more important matter of the northeastern boundary should be impeded, or exposed to the hazard of a failure.

This ground of apprehension now no longer exists: and Her Majesty's Government therefore, being anxious to endeavour to remove, so far as depends on them, all cause, however remote, of even contingent risk to the good understanding now so happily restored between the two countries which ought never to be at variance with each other, have determined to propose to the Government of the United States to meet them in an endeavour to adjust by treaty the unsettled question of boundary west of the Rocky Mountains.

On the receipt of this despatch therefore, I have to desire that you will propose to Mr. Webster to move the President to furnish the United States Minister at this Court with such instructions as will enable him to enter upon the negotiation of this matter, with such person as may be appointed by her Majesty for the object. And you will assure him, at the same time, that we are prepared to proceed to the consideration of it in a perfect spirit of fairness, and to adjust it on a basis of equitable compromise.

I am, with great truth and regard, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ABERDEEN.

*Mr. Webster to Mr. Fox.*

Department of State, Washington, Nov. 25, 1842.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 15th instant, upon the question of the Oregon or the northwestern boundary, with an extract of a despatch recently addressed to you on the subject by the Earl of Aberdeen, explanatory of the wishes of Her Majesty's Government; both of which I laid before the President a few days afterwards.

He directed me to say that he concurred entirely in the expediency of making the question respecting the Oregon territory a subject of immediate attention and negotiation between the two Governments. He had already formed the purpose of expressing this opinion in his message to Congress; and at no distant day, a communication will be made to the minister of the United States in London.

I pray you to accept the renewed assurance of my distinguished consideration.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

H. S. Fox, Esquire, &amp;c.

*Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Upshur.*

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1844.

Among the matters at present under consideration of the two Governments, there is none respecting which the British Government are more anxious to come to an early and satisfactory arrangement with the Government of the United States than that relating to the boundaries of the Oregon or Columbia Territory.

The undersigned, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has accordingly been instructed to lose no time in entering into communication with the Secretary of State of the United States on the subject.

In fulfilment, then, of the commands of his Government, the undersigned has the honour to acquaint Mr. Upshur that he will be able to confer with him, with a view to ulterior negotiation on the subject in question, whensoever it shall suit Mr. Upshur's convenience.

The undersigned is happy in taking advantage of this opportunity to offer to Mr. Upshur the assurance of his high consideration.

R. PAKENHAM.

Hon. Abel Upshur, &amp;c.

*Mr. Upshur to Mr. Pakenham.*

Department of State, Washington, Feb. 26, 1844.

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note dated the 24th inst. from Mr. Pakenham, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, in which he states that he will be ready to confer with the undersigned, with a view to ulterior negotiation on the subject of the boundaries of the Oregon or Columbia Territory, whensoever it shall suit his convenience.

In reply, the undersigned has the honour to inform Mr. Pakenham that he will receive him for that purpose at the Department of State, to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, A. M.