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ST. JOHN, N. B. MARCH 24.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Fox.

Department of State, Washington,
March 6th, 1840.

By the direction of the President, the undersigned Secretary of State of the United States, communicates to Mr. Fox, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, the enclosed copy of a report made to the Governor of the State of Maine, by the agent commissioned on the part of the authorities of that State to ascertain the precise character and extent of the occupation of parts of the disputed territory by troops of Her Britannic Majesty, and of the buildings and other public works constructed for their use and accommodation.

By that report, and the three depositions which the undersigned informally communicated to Mr. Fox, a few days since, he will perceive that there must be some extraordinary misapprehension on his part of the facts in relation to the occupation by British troops of portions of the disputed territory. The statements contained in these documents, and that given by Mr. Fox, in his note of the 26th of January last, exhibit a striking discrepancy as to the number of troops now in the territory, as compared with those who were in it when the arrangement between Governor Fairfield and Lieutenant Governor Harvey was agreed upon; and also as to the present and former state of the buildings there. The extensive accommodations prepared and preparing, at old and at new stations, the works finished, and in the course of construction, on the land and on the water, are not in harmony with the assurance that the only object is the preservation of a few unimportant buildings and storehouses, for the temporary protection of the number of troops Her Majesty's ordinary service can require to pass on the road from New Brunswick to Canada.

The undersigned will abstain from any remarks upon these contradictory statements, until Mr. Fox shall have had an opportunity to obtain the means of fully explaining them. How essential it is that this should be promptly done, and that the steps necessary to a faithful observance, on the part of Her Majesty's Colonial authorities, of the existing agreements between the two governments, should be immediately taken, Mr. Fox cannot fail fully to understand.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Mr. Fox assurance of his high consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Mr. Fox to Mr. Forsyth.

Washington, March 7, 1840.

The undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the official note of yesterday's date, addressed to him by Mr. Forsyth, Secretary of State of the United States, to which is annexed a copy of a report from Mr. Benjamin Wiggin, an agent employed by the State of Maine to visit the British military post at Lake Temiscouata; and in which reference is made to other papers on the same subject, which were informally communicated to the undersigned by Mr. Forsyth, a few days before; and the attention of the undersigned is called by Mr. Forsyth to different points upon which the information contained in the said papers is considered to be materially at variance with that which was conveyed to the United States Government by the undersigned, in his official note of 26th of last January.

The undersigned had already been made acquainted, by the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, with the circumstance of Mr. Wiggin's visit to the military post at Lake Temiscouata, where the officer in command very properly furnished to Mr. Wiggin the requisite information upon all matters connected with the British station, which he appeared desirous to inquire about.

The alleged points at variance, after deducting what is fanciful and conjectural in the reports now produced, and after comparing what is there stated in contradiction to other reports before produced from the same quarters, do not appear to the undersigned to be by any means so material as they seem to have been considered by the Government of the United States. The British military detachment stationed at Lake Temiscouata, which the agents employed by the State of Maine had, in the first instance, with singular exaggeration, represented as amounting to two regiments, is now discovered by the same parties as amounting to one hundred and seventy-five men, which, instead of two regiments, is something less than two companies. It is indeed true, should such a point be considered worth discussing, that the undersigned might have used a more technically correct expression in his note of the 26th of January, if he had stated the detachment in question to consist of from one to two companies, instead of stating it to consist of one company. But a detachment of her Majesty's troops has been stationed at the Lake Temiscouata, from time to time, ever since the winter of 1837 and 1838, when the necessity arose for marching reinforcements by that route from New Brunswick to Canada; and it will be remembered that a temporary right of using that route for the same purpose, was expressly reserved to Great Britain in the provisional agreement entered into at the beginning of last year.

It is not, therefore, true, that the stationing a military force at the Lake Temiscouata is a new measure on the part of her Majesty's authorities. Neither is it true that that measure has been adopted for other than to maintain the security of the customary line of communication, and to protect the buildings, stores, and accommodations provided for the use of her Majesty's troops, when on a march by that route; and it was with a view to correct misapprehensions which appeared to exist on these points, and thus to do away with one needless occasion of dispute, that the undersigned conveyed to the United States Government the information contained in his note of the 26th of Jan.

With regard to the construction of barracks and other buildings, and the preserving them in an efficient state of

repair and defence, a similar degree of error and misapprehension appears still to prevail in the minds of the American authorities.

The erection of those buildings within the portion of the disputed territory now referred to, for the shelter of her Majesty's troops while on their march, and for the safe lodgment of the stores, is no new act on the part of her Majesty's authorities. The buildings in question have been in the course of construction from a period antecedent to the provisional agreement of last year, and they are now maintained and occupied along the line of march, with a view to the same objects above specified, for which the small detachments of troops also referred to, are in like manner there stationed.

The undersigned will not refrain from here remarking upon one point of comparison exhibited in the present controversy. It is admitted by the United States authorities that the armed bands stationed by the Government of Maine in the neighbourhood of the Aroostook River, have fortified those stations with artillery; and it is now objected as matter of complaint against the British authorities with reference to the buildings at Lake Temiscouata, not that these buildings are furnished with artillery, but only that they are defended by palisades capable of resisting artillery. It would be difficult to adduce stronger evidence of the acts on the one side being those of aggression, and on the other of defence.

The fact, shortly, is, and this is the essential point of the argument, that her Majesty's authorities have not yet altered their state of preparation, or strengthened their military means within the disputed territories, with a view to settling the question of the boundary, although the attitude assumed by the State of Maine with reference to the question, would be a clear justification of such measures; and it is much to be apprehended that the adoption of such measures will, sooner or later, become indispensable, if the people of Maine be not compelled to desist from the extensive system of armed aggression which they are continuing to carry on in other parts of the same disputed territory.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to the Secretary of State of the United States the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

H. S. FOX.

NOVA SCOTIA.

(From the Halifax Guardian, April 1.)

During the past week, political events have happened in Halifax, which are rather of unusual occurrence in this happy, and loyal, and contented colony. We allude, at present, not to the prorogation of the Provincial Legislature, a public ceremonial which always takes place once a year, in the ordinary course of events, but to the proceedings of the popular branch of the legislature before the prorogation, and to the transactions of two public meetings which have since been held.

The House of Assembly having thought fit, in the exercise of its legislative wisdom, to pass an address to Her Majesty, setting forth the grievances with which it had to contend, and ascribing these grievances to the influence of the Executive Council, and the conduct of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, whose removal from his present official station the Address recommended, as the only remedy which can now be applied to establish harmony between the Executive and the Legislature of the Province—a public meeting was called, and held at Mason Hall on Saturday last, for the purpose of allowing the inhabitants of Halifax to record their disapprobation of the censure contained in the Assembly's address upon the conduct of our worthy Governor. A numerous and respectable body of the citizens assembled on that occasion. Resolutions were introduced, supported, and unanimously adopted, sincerely deploring the Address of the Assembly, approving of the conduct of the Lieutenant Governor during his administration, and pledging the Meeting to rally round His Excellency, and satisfied with the maternal care of our most gracious Queen, to testify their readiness to support her throne, and maintain the connection between this Province and the Parent State. An address founded on these Resolutions was then read and adopted, and soon after presented to the Lieutenant Governor by the Meeting in an assembled body.

On Monday last, another public meeting, called by the Representatives of the Town and County of Halifax, was held in the same place, to hear the explanation of the Town and County Members, who had all voted in favour of the Assembly's Address, and to allow them an opportunity of justifying their conduct in so doing. This meeting was also numerous and respectfully attended; a number of able and eloquent speeches were delivered by the members themselves, and by others friendly and unfriendly to their measures. Much diversity of opinion appeared to prevail in the minds both of the speakers and auditors; two distinct sets of Resolutions were proposed, seconded and supported, but such was the crowded state of the meeting, so great was the number of persons, not free-holders, who had gained admission, and the consequent difficulty of forming an exact division, that neither of these series of Resolutions, we understand, were considered as adopted, although it is not at all improbable that both parties will claim the victory.

Such, we believe, is a brief outline of what actually took place at both of these meetings. We very seldom obtrude our political sentiments upon the notice of our readers, having a much higher object in view, but we cannot fail to express our regret, in alluding to these meetings, that any event should unhappily occur to interrupt the concord and harmony of the population of this town, and engender angry and party feelings among the members of this peaceful community. Extreme measures should never be resorted to, if they can possibly be avoided; and certainly nothing is so much to be deplored, as an open collision between the different branches of the Provincial Legislature, to which

we all, as good subjects, wish to look up, with the greatest respect and deference.

This dispute, like many other serious controversies, has arisen from a very small beginning—the mere verbal explanation of a harmless public document; and no one can be so well qualified to give this explanation, as the person by whom it was composed. We are only sorry that the House of Assembly did not wait, after His Excellency had courteously agreed to transmit their Address to Great Britain, till an answer could have been obtained from Lord John Russell himself; which, thanks to the liberality of the Imperial Parliament, might easily have reached Nova Scotia, by Mr. Cunard's first Steam Packet, about the middle of May, or in less than two months from this date.

(From the Halifax Guardian, March 18.)

Extract of a letter from Dr. Burns, to one of the Ministers of this Town.

Paisley, 31st Dec. 1839.

My Dear Sir,—I congratulate you and the Synod of New Brunswick, on such an accession as the Rev. J. M. Brooke, of New Richmond—of whose arrival I have just heard—and of whose usefulness as an able, active, and pious minister, I entertain no doubt. On opening a correspondence with him, you will find him ready to every good work; and I hope that our excellent friend Mr. Steven, of Restigouche, and he, will go on, most successfully, together, both in the direct work of the Ministry, and in the superintendance of Christian Schools.

I congratulate you also on the recent appointment we have made, of the Rev. Robert Williamson, Minister of the Parish of Croich, Sutherlandshire, to be successor to Mr. M'Kenzie, at Pictou, and of which due notice has been given to the people there. He sails in April, and will probably see you on his way. He is an able, and popular, and decidedly pious Minister, and his wife (he has no family) is a very clever and good woman. Mr. W. is doing what he can to get a Minister for St. James', N. B., and possibly he may prevail on some other young preacher to go along with him. In the meantime, I have to mention two things which will please you. Mr. George M'Donnell, who at present labours as *Scotch Missionary* at Manchester, has offered his services for *Nova Scotia*, and, if he does not change his mind, will sail, perhaps, with Mr. Williamson in the Spring. I will give you notice again; but in the meantime I have to say, that his residence in England as *Tutor*, and his *present labours*, (which are decidedly *Missionary*) will form a *good apprenticeship* for any situation you may assign him.

The second thing is this. We have had under our training, for particular *Missionary* service, a young man of the name of Finlay Campbell (*Galic*), to be a *Teacher* in *Prince Edward Island*, under the charge of the *Perth Ladies' Society*. He has been at the *Normal School* in Glasgow, and has been making progress. We would prefer his settling in Pictou, or some other Highland district, where there may be schools and teachers already, and where a *neglected* station might be usefully occupied by him, *we* (or the ladies) paying him a small salary, (say £25 a year) and his outfit. He is pious, and would suit very well as a *Catechist* among his countrymen, besides an ordinary teacher. Please let me know, on receipt of this, whether you have openings for such a person, and also what is your opinion of the kind of man that we should send to *Prince Edward Island*.

Remember us in your prayers; we do not forget you—alas! for the apathy of our preachers, otherwise no lack would be on my part. Mrs. B. unites in the best wishes of the season.

My dear Sir,
faithfully yours,
ROBERT BURNS.

The Colonial Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has lately voted from its funds, the sum of £200 Sterling for the Synod of Nova Scotia, in aid of its members. This is an additional, and we may also add, a very gratifying evidence of the continued and deep interest which our National Church feels for the comfort of her Ministers, and for the prosperity of Religion among the numerous adherents to the Church of Scotland throughout the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

DR. ALDER'S VISIT TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

(From the London Watchman.)

We have great pleasure in laying before our readers the following extract from the Minutes of the Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

Dr. Alder, on his return from his recent visit to the Society's Mission in British North America, favoured the Committee, at two successive meetings, with a very able and highly interesting Report of his various travels and exertions in promoting the interests of the Society, and the important objects for which he was deputed by the Committee, on which it was—

“Resolved unanimously, That the Committee feel it their pleasing duty on this occasion to accompany their cordial welcome of Dr. Alder, on his return to this country, and to his regular official labours among us, by the devout expression of their gratitude to Almighty God, for the preservation of Dr. and Mrs. Alder, during their long absence from home—for his blessing on Dr. Alder's visit and labours—and for the successful result of his able and judicious endeavours to secure the rights and interests of the Indian Tribes connected with us, and to obtain from the Government of Upper Canada the payment which had for a while been suspended of the large arrears of the pecuniary grant due to the Society on account of its Indian and other missions in that Province.

“That the Committee also feel it their gratifying duty to present to Dr. Alder, together with their most sincere congratulations on his return to England, their cordial