

also added on both sides, expressive of the desire of the sovereigns to establish commerce on the most favourable footing for both nations.

By the treaty with the United states of America

Article 1) His Britannic Majesty acknowledged the United states, viz. New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, Rhode island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, sovereign, and independent, states; and relinquished all claims to the government, property, or territorial rights, of them.

2) The boundary was fixed to commence from the River St. Croix, and to proceed from the source of it\*, by several positions, which will be much better understood by a glance upon the map of the United states than by verbal description, to the great lakes, through the middle of them, and west from them to the Lake of the Woods, whence the boundary joins the River Mississippi, and proceeds down the middle stream of it to 31° north latitude, whence it breaks off, in a line nearly east, to the head of the River St. Marys, and proceeds down that river to the Atlantic ocean, which forms the eastern boundary, comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of the coast, except those belonging to the province of Nova Scotia.

3) It was agreed, that the people of the United states should continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Great bank, and on all the other banks, of Newfoundland, in the Gulf of St. Laurence, and all other parts of the sea, where they used to fish formerly; and also that they should have liberty to catch fish on those parts of the coast of Newfoundland used by British fishermen (but not to dry or cure them on that island) and also on the coasts of all other parts of the British dominions in America, with liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks, of Nova Scotia, Magdalen islands, and Labrador, so long as the same remain unsettled, and no longer, except by permission of the inhabitants†.

4) It was agreed, that the creditors on either side should meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money of all bona-fide debts.

5) It was agreed, that the congress should earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the different states to restore all property taken from individuals for their attachment to the cause of Great Britain, they re-

\* Which of the several branches of this river was to be taken for the boundary, became a doubtful question, which required the appointment of commissioners on both sides to decide it. The Nile of Egypt is not the only river, which has puzzled people to say, where is its head?

† France did not intend, the American states should have a share of the Newfoundland fishery, which, it is said, coming to the knowledge of the American commissioners, they immediately, and

without the knowledge of the French ministers, and contrary to orders from Congress, suddenly signed the provisional articles with our negotiator, who (ignorant of the above circumstance, although known to many at Paris) had explained that he was ready to sign on any terms, and readily gave up the Newfoundland fishery. [Lord Sheffield's observations on the commerce of America, p. 69, sixth ed.]