

*If the friendly reader will spread before him a modern map of New Brunswick, and will fix his attention upon all the boundary lines shown thereon ; or, if he will observe closely the diagrammatic map of the Province forming the frontispiece of the present paper, he will be impressed by the irregularity of the network the boundaries make, and by the seeming lawlessness of most of their courses. Closer observation will show that a few of the lines coincide with natural features of the country, such as sea-coasts and rivers ; but the great majority have no such determinants, and are obviously entirely artificial. Everyone versed in the history of this Province will readily recall that some of these boundaries have been subjects of serious international contentions, have exhausted the powers of the highest diplomacy, and have brought great nations within sight of war. A few are old, and interwoven with the earlier periods of our history, while others have had experiences sufficiently remarkable or curious. Altogether, it is unlikely that any other country of equal size has had its boundaries so often or conspicuously in contention, so fully discussed by many and weighty commissions, so closely interlocked with its general history, or determined by so many distinct considerations as has the Province of New Brunswick. It is the object of this work to attempt to explain the precise factors which have determined for each New Brunswick boundary line its genesis, its persistence, its position, its direction and its length.*