

vain to deny that it was a corroborating circumstance, calculated to add no small weight to her claim.

It would be still further increased by the fact that France was our ally at the time, and, as such, must have been consulted, and kept constantly advised of all that occurred during the progress of the negotiation, including its final result. It would be idle to suppose that these disclosures would not weigh heavily against us in any future negotiation.—They would, so much so—taken in connexion with the adverse award of the King of Holland, and this treaty, should it be rejected—as to render hopeless any future attempt to settle the question by negotiation or arbitration. No alternative would be left us but to yield to the full extent of the British claim, or to put Maine in possession by force, and that, too, with the opinion and sympathy of the world against us and our cause. In his opinion we would be bound to attempt it, in justice to Maine, should we refuse to agree to what she has assented. So much for the boundary question, as far as Maine is concerned.

Having now shown—satisfactorily, he hoped—that Maine has acted wisely for herself in assenting to the treaty, it remained to be considered whether the representatives of the Union on such questions, would not also do so in ratifying it, so far at least as the boundary question is involved. He would add nothing to what had already been said of the portion in which Maine was immediately interested. His remarks would be confined to the remaining portion of the boundary, extending from the northwestern corner of that State to the Rocky Mountains.

Throughout this long-extended line, every question has been settled to our satisfaction. Our right has been acknowledged to a territory of about one hundred thousand acres of land, in New Hampshire, which would have been lost by the award of the King of Holland. A long gore of about the same amount, lying in Vermont and New York, and which was lost under the treaty of Ghent, would be regained by this. It includes House's Point, Sugar Island, lying in the water connexion between Lakes Huron and Superior, and heretofore in dispute, is acknowledged to be ours; it is large, and valuable for soil and position. So also is Isle Royale, near the northern shore of Lake Superior, acknowledged to be ours—a large island, and valuable for its fisheries. And also, a large tract of country to the north and west of that lake, between Fond du Lac and the river St. Louis on one side, and Pigeon river on the other—containing four millions of acres. It is said to be sterile, but cannot well be more so than that acquired by Great Britain, lying west of the boundary awarded by the King of Holland. In addition all the islands in the river St. Lawrence and the lakes, which were divided in running out the division line under previous treaties, are acquired by us under this; and all the channels and passages are opened to the common uses of our citizens and the subjects of Great Britain.

Such are the provisions of the treaty in reference to this long line of boundary. Our gain—regarded in the most contracted point of view, as mere equivalents for the sum assumed to be paid by us to Maine and Massachusetts for their assent to the treaty—is

dence and emphasis to the pretensions of Great Britain, and to exert a corresponding influence upon the mind of the arbiter. It is worth while, in this connexion, to turn to what Lord Ashburton has said, in one of his communications to Mr. Webster, when explaining his views of the position of the highlands described in the treaty:

"My inspection of the maps, and my examination of the documents," says his Lordship, "lead me to a very strong conviction that the highlands contemplated by the negotiators of the treaty were the only highlands then known to them—at the head of the Penobscot, Kennebec, and the rivers west of the St. Croix; and that they did not precisely know how the north line from the St. Croix would strike them; and if it were not my wish to shorten this discussion, I believe a very good argument might be drawn from the words of the treaty in proof of this. In the negotiations with Mr. Livingston, and afterwards with Mr. McLane, this view seemed to prevail; and, as you are aware, there were proposals to search for these highlands to the west, where alone, I believe, they will be found to answer perfectly the description of the treaty. If this question should unfortunately go to a further reference, I should by no means despair of finding some confirmation of this view of the case."

It is for the Senate to consider (added Mr. Rives) whether there would not be much risk of introducing new complications and embarrassments in this controversy, by leaving it open for another litigated reference; and if the British Government—strongly prepossessed, as its minister tells us it is, with the justice of its claims—would not find what it would

naturally consider a persuasive "confirmation of its view of the case" in documents such as those encountered by Mr. Sparks in his historical researches in the archives of France.

A map has been vauntingly paraded here, from Mr. Jefferson's collection, in the zeal of opposition, (without taking time to see what it was,) to confront and invalidate the map found by Mr. Sparks in the Foreign Office at Paris; but, the moment it is examined, it is found to sustain, by the most precise and remarkable correspondence in every feature, the map communicated by Mr. Sparks. The Senator who produced it, could see nothing but the microscopic dotted line running off in a northeasterly direction; but the moment other eyes were applied to it, there was found, in bold relief, a strong red line, indicating the limits of the United States, according to the treaty of peace, and coinciding, minutely and exactly, with the boundary traced on the map of Mr. Sparks. That this red line, and not the hardly visible dotted line, was intended to represent the limits of the United States according to the treaty of peace, is conclusively shown by the circumstance that the red line is drawn on the map all around the exterior boundary of the United States; through the middle of the Northern Lakes, thence through the Long Lake and the Rainy Lake to the Lake of the Woods; and from the western extremity of the Lake of the Woods to the river Mississippi; and along that river, to the point where the boundary of the United States, according to the treaty of peace, leaves it; and thence, by its easterly course, to the mouth of the St. Mary's, on the Atlantic.

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