

to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, viz. The western State in the said territory shall be bounded on the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincent due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, and by the said territorial line to the lake of the Woods and the Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincent to the Ohio; by the Ohio by a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern State shall be bounded by the last-mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: provided, however, and if it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that if Congress hereafter shall find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one, or two States, in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of lake Michigan; and when any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted by its delegates into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever; and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and state government: provided the constitution and government so to be formed shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.

“ART. VI. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: provided always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labour or service is lawfully claimed in any of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labour or service as aforesaid.”

Such is the present government of the western territory, and such the political obligations of the adventurers into this fertile and delightful part of the United States.

In the ordinance of Congress, for the government of this territory, it is provided, that after the said territory acquires a certain degree of population, it shall be divided into States. The eastern State, that