

Journal 721,
p. 243.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,
LONDON, 24th Novr. 1824.

To the Rt. Honble. GEORGE CANNING,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—On the 21st October, Mr. Horton by direction of Lord Bathurst transmitted to me a copy of a letter from Mr. Commissioner Barclay to you on the subject of the probable course of the Boundary line under the 7th Article of the Treaty of Ghent, and requesting that I would favour him with any observations which the Hudson's Bay Company may be desirous of offering on the suggestion proposed to Mr. Barclay.

In my absence from town Mr. Garry replied thereto on the 30th October. On the 5th Instant I had an interview with Mr. Horton from whom I understood that the consideration of the subject would be referred to you with a recommendation that you should have a conference with the Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company thereon.

I have since given it much consideration and it appears to me that the 2nd Article of the Treaty of 1818 is clear as to the Boundary. It states that if the North Western point of the Lake of the Woods is not in the 49th Parallel of Northern Latitude, which it is not, then that a line drawn from the said point due North or South, as the case may be until the said Line shall intersect the said Parallel of North Latitude and from the point of such intersection due West along and with the said Parallel shall be the line of Demarcation between the territories of the United States and those of His Majesty, "and that the said Line shall form the Northern Boundary of the said Territory of the United States and the southern boundary of the Territories of 'His Britannic Majesty' from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony Mountains", consequently that the Americans cannot lay claim to any territory to the North of the line of 49° from the point of intersection, I have to observe that the part marked " " is not in Mr. Barclay's letter but is in a printed copy in my possession.

It therefore appears if I am right in my conclusions that the North Western point contended for by the American Commissioners would be the most desirable one as it would give Great Britain the Islands on the Lake and Territory: the two lines which Mr. Barclay supposes will be claimed by them for America. The 7th Article of the Treaty of Ghent to which he alludes does not fix any line but only authorizes the Commissioners to fix and determine according to the true Intent of the Treaty of Peace of 1783, that part of the Boundary which extends from the Water Communication between Lake Huron and Lake Superior to the most North Western point of the Lake of the Woods.

Reference must therefore be had to the Treaty of 1783, the 2nd Article of which states, that from the most North Western point of the Lake of Woods on a due West course to the river Mississippi thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said River Mississippi, until it shall intersect the Northernmost part of the 31° of Northern Latitude shall be the Boundary. This Line being very different from that of 1808, the latter Treaty of course supersedes it, and is the one on which I presume the Commissioners must decide.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most obedient

humble servant,

J. H P., Govr.