

The *northern branch* of the main trunk above mentioned, leaves the southern branch which we have just described in about forty-four degrees north latitude, and pursuing a more northerly course round the heads of the River St. Francis, passes to the north of the Lake St. Francis, and crosses the Chaudière, in the parallel of Lake Etchemin (north latitude $46^{\circ} 25'$). From thence, running west and north of the last-mentioned lake, it may be said by its occasional peaks to hold a course nearly parallel to the River St. Lawrence, at a mean distance of about twenty miles, until it reaches the district of Gaspé. Of this northern branch it is to be remarked, that it is indebted to the character which has been given to it, of a ridge of Highlands, not to the circumstance of its being a true continuous chain, which actually divides waters running in opposite directions, but to the fact of a number of peaks, far removed from each other, falling nearly within the same magnetic direction. Observed from great distances, these isolated peaks naturally assume an apparent continuous character; but on nearing them, we find them separated by wide intervals, occasionally of twenty or thirty miles, of marshy tabular lands, where the heads of the streams, flowing in opposite directions, frequently overlap each other, so that the streams which flow south, in the greater number of cases, frequently rise far to the north of the heads of the streams which flow north into the St. Lawrence.

Description of the Highlands claimed by the United States as the Highlands of the Treaty of 1783.

For instance, the northern branch of the Mittaywawquam*, a conspicuous western branch of the St. John, emptying itself into that river, in $46^{\circ} 33'$ north latitude, takes its rise to the north of some of the most elevated of the peaks before spoken of, encircling them round from the west. Twenty-five miles east of those peaks occurs another group of like character. Here the sources of the Black River take their rise, about ten miles north of the peaks, which constitute a group, and in the same swamp where the streams called Ouelle and Du Loup take their rise, both of which empty themselves into the St. Lawrence. Forty miles further to the north-east is another set of very elevated peaks, the highest of which are called "Grande Fourche" and "Jean Paradis," both of which are passed on the Temisquata Portage. Here the peaks are almost contiguous to each other. But the source of the St. Francis, one of the tributaries of the St. John, which falls into it, in north latitude $47^{\circ} 12'$, rises north of those peaks, whilst the sources of the Rivière Verte and Rivière Trois Pistoles, both of which flow north into the St. Lawrence, take their rise south of the sources of the St. Francis, and of the peaks in question. Further to the north-east, the head-waters of the Rimousky take their rise so far to the south as almost to be joined to the head-waters of Green River, which discharges itself into the St. John, in north latitude $47^{\circ} 17'$, and the sources of the Metis†, which run into the lake of that name, take their rise near twenty miles south-east of the peaks, which form a part of that apparent continuous chain before spoken of.

This being a true description of the topographical nature of that line of country, where the Americans claim the "Highlands" of the Treaty of 1783 to be, it is superfluous to add that it is in every respect deficient in that most essential character which the Treaty requires it to have, viz. of dividing "those rivers that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean."

The American Highlands do not divide rivers flowing in opposite directions.

In point of fact, no rivers are divided in their course, at any point of the country, along the line thus claimed by the Americans, as carrying out the intentions of the Treaty.

But your Lordship will have observed that the line thus claimed by the Americans, as the "Highlands" of the Treaty of 1783, is equally deficient in another point expressly named in the IInd Article of the Treaty, as the most essential character of the "Highlands" therein described, and the absence of which is an unqualified condemnation of these pretended "Highlands." The language of the IInd Article is:—

"Along the said Highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut River."

We have shown, as the map will explain, that there are only two branches

* The Canadians have corrupted this word into Daaquam. It means literally Mast River, from *mittay*, a mast; the immense quantity of spruce-trees growing in the swamps near its western heads, giving to the country the appearance of a forest of masts.

† This stream was named Beaver River when it was struck by the "due north" exploring line in 1818.