If, on the other hand, the opposite points are to be regulated with reference to the particular course of an ever-varying river, at any given place, the difficulty lies in determining what that precise course is, in any of the complicated cases above mentioned.

But if this equidistant line had been found to be practicable, there were other and insurmountable objections to its adoption as a boundary.

The maps will show that this great water communication is filled with a vast number of islands, which it is made the duty of the commissioners under the treaty of Ghent to apportion and appropriate to the respective The effect of adopting this equidistant middle line would Governments. have been to divide most of the large and valuable islands, and many of the smaller ones, into two unequal parts, and to give one part to each Government. The line itself, conforming, as it must do, to the various dissimilar windings of the two opposite and extreme shores, would have exhibited a perpetual succession of curves, angles, and zigzag courses, and often returning and doubling upon itself. The labor of calculating and tracing such a line would have been immense, and the difficulty of preserving it still greater, and could have been effected only by the erection of a continual wall of stone, or other imperishable material; inasmuch as the establishment of monuments at particular points, however near to each other, would furnish no sufficient data for ascertaining the course of the intermediate and complicated line. The effect, moreover, of such a course would have been to place the citizens and subjects of the two nations in juxtaposition, occupying possessions divided from each other only by imaginary, or at best uncertain lines. And the further and necessary consequences of this state of things would be, perpetual collisions between the two parties in respect to boundary and jurisdiction; constant collusions to evade the revenue laws of the two countries; and combinations to shield delinquents from the arm both of civil and criminal justice.

There are, however, other middle lines, resolvable on strictly scientific principles, that might have been adopted as the boundary, and which, therefore, deserve a passing notice.

The treaty of 1783, in its progressive description of the boundary, separates it into distinct sections, each comprehending an entire river, lake, or water communication, and requires that the boundary shall pass through the middle of each. Any connected line, therefore, drawn through this whole water communication, in such a manner as to divide each of the specified sections into two equal superficial quantities, will, strictly and geometrically speaking, be a "middle" line. Such, however, is the irregularity in the shape of each of these sections, that a straight line drawn from the required point of entrance into it, to the required point of departure from it, will, in no instance, divide it into equal parts; and it must therefore be done by a crooked line. But there are no acknowledged principles by which to determine what shall be the direction of this crooked line, and there may be a million of crooked lines drawn through the area formed of each section of this water communication, all differing from each other, and yet each having the effect to divide it into two equal quantities, and therefore being each a "middle" line. Either of the two commissioners might have drawn a middle line of this description, in such a manner as to give nine-tenths of the whole islands to his own Government. But it will not be contended that either of their lir line inten

The pr ably unim it is trust many resp this bound principles is the mid on scienti nical inter the middle nel or file opposite s and spirit the bound it has bee league an applicable occur) wh or perhap and each

After e line, the c the two pa tions of th tical sugge would be ticipation which it p in point of ary as cou as would situations understan agreed, at a boundar and not by hardly der an interpre " through have done dozen mil Having invariably

invariably other cons. sceined to jects for th the most in The was

The vas for two the a proportio