

The fact is that the whole fabric of argument originated in a misconception, which, by force of reiteration, had assumed the semblance of reality. It is incomprehensible how the plain language of the Treaty could have been so perverted. Now, what are the words of the first article of the Treaty of 1846?

ARTICLE I.

"From the point on the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, where the boundary, laid down in existing treaties and conventions between Great Britain and the United States, terminates, the line of boundary between the territories of Her Britannic Majesty and those of the United States shall be continued westward along the said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the Continent from Vancouver Island, and thence, southerly, through the middle of the said channel and of Fuca's Straits to the Pacific Ocean.

"*Provided*, however, that the navigation of the whole of the said channel and straits, south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, remain free and open to both parties."

Nothing can be plainer, more intelligible or more practical, than the meaning of this first article of the Treaty of 1846. It prescribes that the line of the water boundary, starting from a given point on the 49th parallel, *in the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver Island*, should pass thence, southerly, through the middle of the said channel and the Straits of Fuca, to the Pacific Ocean. The channel spoken of is the Grand channel, *the whole space*, whether of island, rock or water, which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island. No mention is made in the Treaty of interjacent islands or