

Hawkesbury : I accordingly prepared and sent the draft to his Lordship, who sent me a letter in the course of the night, stating, that on further reflection he was of opinion, that the narrow seas should be expressly excepted, they having been, as his Lordship remarked, immemorially considered to be within the dominion of Great Britain ; that with this correction he had sent the proposed convention to Lord Hawkesbury, who, his Lordship presumed, would not sign it before he should have consulted the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, Sir William Scott.

“ As I had supposed, from the tenor of my conferences with Lord St. Vincent, that the doctrine of the *mare clausum* would not be revived against us on this occasion, but that England would be content with the limited jurisdiction or dominion over the seas adjacent to her territories, which is assigned by the law of nations to other states, I was not a little disappointed on receiving this communication ; and after weighing well the nature of the principle and the disadvantages of its admission, I concluded to abandon the negociation rather than to acquiesce in the doctrine it proposed to establish.

“ I regret not to have been able to put this business on a satisfactory footing, knowing, as I do, its very great importance to both parties ; but I flatter myself that I have not misjudged the interest of our own