

There is a fixed and deep impression throughout all the British provinces in North America, that the manner in which Great Britain settles this question of the boundary, will be considered the announcement of her intention either of retaining or abandoning the colonies; at all events, on the settlement of this great, momentous question, thousands will be filled with joy, or chilled by despair. The immense possessions which Great Britain has already lost on that continent, through ignorance, should make her doubly determined not to be over-reached by a shameful perversion and misrepresentation of the *words* and *spirit* of the treaty.

It is inconceivable the injury the non-settlement of this question inflicts on British North America. Capital would be freely invested in it, were this point determined, from the absolute certainty of the great return such investment would produce; but, amongst all the symptoms connected with this settlement, none appears so ominous or fatal, as a recent article in a journal established by one of the principal fomenters of the Canadian rebellion, evidently from the pen of an honourable gentleman, whose misstatements in the House of Commons, in his desire to vindicate the United States in reference to the invasions into Upper Canada, were contradicted by the American journals; and whose article, it would appear, had almost received a semi-official sanction.

It well behoves the British nation to rouse from the apathy it has hitherto exhibited on this subject; not an inch of its territory should be surrendered; not a maritime or commercial right compromised or sacrificed; but that a good, sufficient boundary, that shall not involve other great questions springing from an ill-defined one, shall be resolutely determined on. In 1798, we yielded the main branch of the St. Croix, taking the small, insignificant eastern branch, although the great western branch was always considered the main one, alike by the Indians who resided on its banks, as well as by the inhabitants of the United States. Even to this day it is so designated. This eastern branch is now the limit of the United States in the east, as far as it runs, from the Bay of Fundy to its source. Now, from the treaty of 1783, a line is to be drawn "due north to the Highlands." The commencement of the difficulty is not its running north, but where north the line should stop. We contend that it should stop at Mars Hill. The Americans, that it should proceed nearly 200 miles further north; consequently, carrying their claim near to the St. Lawrence, and taking in in its route a considerable portion of the St. John's river. Again, the Americans have pertinaciously contended that the Bay of