

less result, we obtain, by the principles detailed in the preceding articles, a preponderating evidence in favor of that boundary.

ART. 28. By the mere mental substitution of *arcs of great circles* for *straight lines*, the whole preceding theory, with scarcely a verbal alteration, becomes directly applicable to all cases, in which, from the large extent of the total tract, we may suppose the *rotundity of the terrestrial surface* to have any perceptible effect on the question.

ART. 29. But, in the practical application of this theory, the following indispensable precaution must be observed. Through all the preceding investigations, the extent of any *one* boundary is conceived to be that wherein it *separates, every where, the previously undetermined shares of those two parties, and of those two parties alone.* And therefore, if a boundary be part of a continuous frontier; and if that frontier, in other parts of its course, be a boundary to shares predetermined between the same two parties, or a boundary at all appertaining to any share of any third party; if we would apply the preceding investigation to this first boundary, we must first ascertain *how much* of that frontier *constitutes* this boundary, by discovering *on what points* of that frontier *the extremities of this boundary fall.*

ART. 30. Hence, in the application of the preceding process to an examination of the two boundaries respectively claimed by the American and British nations, on the frontiers of New Brunswick and Maine; we should first ascertain *where the common westward extremity of the two conflicting boundaries lies; that is, to what extent westward, in 1783, the boundary established in that year separated British from American territory.* The true answer to this question seems to be, that such boundary was *bona fide* a boundary between the United States and the British possessions, through all its westward course *till it first reached a branch of the Mississippi:* as every part of the region westward of that river, at least as far as to the Rocky Mountains, appears to have been, at that time, either *Indian* or *French* territory. This question, however, being subject to the decision of historical research, its further consideration is unnecessary *here.*