

APPENDIX
OF MANITOBA.

Greenhow's
Hist. Oregon
and Cali-
fornia,
p. 281-3.

President Jefferson, nevertheless wished that the *proviso* respecting the north west coast should be omitted, as it "could have little other effect than as an offensive intimation to Spain that the claims of the United States extend to the Pacific Ocean. However reasonable such claims may be, compared with those of others, it is impolitic especially at the present moment to strengthen Spanish jealousies of the United States, which it is probably an object with Great Britain to excite, by the clause in question." The outrage committed by the British upon the American frigate *Chesapeake*, together with the change in the British ministry, prevented the ratification of this treaty; and the discussion of boundaries was not renewed until 1814.

How far Louisiana extended westward when it was ceded by France to Spain, there are no means of determining. The question has never been touched in treaties, or even in negotiations, so far as known. The French maps and histories are, in general, so entirely erroneous as regards the geography of America, and always so absurd in their statements as to the extent of the French dominions, that they are of no value as evidence; while the charters of the British sovereigns, appear at present, scarcely less extravagant. Those charters, embracing, together, the whole division of North America between the 48th and 31st parallels of latitude, were, nevertheless, maintained by Great Britain until the peace of 1763, when her government, by agreeing to admit the Mississippi as the west, implicitly recognized the right of the latter power to the whole territory beyond that river between the same parallels; and Louisiana always embraced all the French possessions west of the Mississippi. In the absence of more direct light on the subject from history, we are forced to regard the boundaries indicated by nature—namely, the highlands separating the waters of the Mississippi from those flowing into the Pacific or the Californian Gulf—as the true western boundaries of the Louisiana ceded by France to Spain in 1762, and retroceded to France in 1800, and transferred to the United States by France in 1803: but then it must also be admitted, for the same as well as for another and stronger reason, that the British possessions farther north were bounded in the west by the same chain of highlands; for the charter of Hudson's Bay Company, on which the right of those possessions was founded and maintained, expressly included only the countries traversed by streams emptying into Hudson's Bay.