

was acknowledged, and the boundaries of their territories defined.

3rd. Jay's Treaty, so generally designated, signed in London 19th November, 1794.

4th. The Treaty of Ghent, made in 1814, 24th December, terminating the war known to us as the War of 1812, again defining, but ambiguously, the territorial boundaries of Great Britain on this continent and of the United States. This Treaty led to other Treaties, which afforded a good deal of explanation, but were not always satisfactory, to wit :

5th. The Convention of 1818.

6th. The Treaty of Washington, 9th August, 1842, better known as the Ashburton Treaty.

7th. The Treaty of Washington, 15th June, 1846, known as the Oregon Treaty ; and, finally :

8th. The last Treaty of Washington, of the 8th May, 1871, which has been the subject of so much controversy in Canada.

By the Treaty of Paris, ratified in 1763, three years after the capture of Quebec and the capitulation of Montreal, England acquired all the French possessions on the Continent of America. By the Treaty of 1783, confirming the Independence of the United States, England not only relinquished the territory claimed by each State of the Union, severally, but abandoned to the General Government immense tracts of territory unsettled, and, in fact, unexplored and unknown. The prevailing ignorance of the time was innocently shown in the Treaty itself. The North-Western angle of demarcation was fixed at the North-West angle of the Lake of the Woods, from which point of departure it was to run *due west*, to the sources of the Mississippi. It was subsequently found that the sources of the Mississippi were many hundred miles to the *south*; that the line prescribed was, in fact, an impracticable line. It was, consequently, by Jay's Treaty, 1794, and the Convention of 1815, changed to the line 49 of Northern parallel, more in accordance with the intent of the Treaty, and still more with the interests of the United States. England retained simply her loyal Colonies or Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the Island of Newfoundland, the Hudson's Bay Territory, including Prince Rupert's Land, and her acquisitions from the French

Crown, which have since expanded and extended across the continent to the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

But these vast extents of territory were wanting in cohesion. Contiguous and continuous, they were yet, by force of physical circumstances,—from climate—from remoteness, long drawn out—by barriers of Lake and Ocean—by icy barriers in winter, and by Treaty barriers all the year round,—left separate and apart, debarred from intercommunication at the present and, to all human prescience, in the future. The northern line of demarcation between the countries, established in 1783, terminating at the North-West point of the Lake of the Woods, drove England and Canada into the Arctic regions, inaccessible except by birch canoe or Indian dog-sled. A little more of foresight, a little less of precipitation, and some knowledge of physical geography, would, without question, have secured to Canada, in 1783, a roadway, at the least, to the North-West. But that which in 1783 was unobserved and unappreciated, was, at a later period, in 1814, with open eyes flung aside, with all the spendthrift generosity and sublime indifference of diplomacy. Men in Canada, however proud, and justly proud, of the events of the war of 1812, are not always mindful of the practical results, won chiefly, too, by the gallantry of native Canadians, and quirked away recklessly by the Treaty of Ghent. It may be well to recall the fact that, in December 1814, England was in a position to have forestalled and foreclosed for ever the mortifying humiliation of the Ashburton Treaty of 1842, and to have secured to herself at the same time, on the largest scale and by the shortest line, a right of way to her North-West Territories. In December 1814, she was, by conquest, in actual possession of the fortress of Michilimacinae—called Macinaw for shortness—of Lake Michigan, of the site of the present city of Chicago, and of a line of territory terminating at the fort of Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi ;—she had won back in fair fight, and held by right of war, the whole of the territory conceded in 1783, and which now constitutes a part of Michigan, and the more northern States of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the autumn of 1814, Colonel McKay, an Indian trader—a man endowed with a natural genius for warlike enterprise, well known afterwards as