

vexatious question, which had frequently threatened the peaceful relations of England and America, become closed for ever upon terms consistent with the conviction each sincerely appeared to entertain of its rights, and the respect which was due to the peace of mankind.

As in attempting a vindication of the Treaty of Washington, it will be necessary to advert briefly to the state of our late territorial dispute with the United States at the period when Lord Ashburton entered upon his mission, a rapid sketch will now be given of the history of the controversy, referring the reader, who may be desirous of consulting its details, to the various publications in which they are to be found.

In the Second Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1783, the northern frontier of the United States is fully described as running along certain "Highlands" dividing rivers flowing into the St. Lawrence from rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean, and thence by a specified line westward to the river Mississippi.

This frontier, which in its whole distance was conterminous with the British dominions in Canada, extended about 2,300 miles, and the only portion of it of which the description could be considered so doubtful as to permit a question to be raised concerning the intentions of the negotiators respecting it, was the com-