INVESTIGATION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPUTED FRONTIER.

ART. 1. If two parties agree to discriminate a tract of country into two several shares, by a transverse boundary, and the face of the country *present no natural obstacles*, that boundary will, beyond all doubt, be *Rectilineal*; for every curvilinear deflection or angular deviation would be a source of unprofitable toil and useless perplexity.

ART. 2. And hence if any part of such boundary were disputed or defaced, it might be, at any time, re-ascertained, by simply pursuing the direction of that part which is known.

ART. 3. But if natural obstacles occur on the face of the country, they will operate in two ways; first, by intercepting the course and precluding the progress of the intended rectilineal boundary; and secondly, by presenting, *in themselves*, a range of immutable and definite local features, which may, with facility and certainty, be taken as connecting-points through which we may imagine a boundary to pass.

ART. 4. Between the parties, however, a previous understanding must have existed, either strict, precise, and immutable, or else restrained within certain limits of allowable adjustment, concerning the proportionate magnitudes and relative situations of the two shares.

ART. 5. And hence, in the selection of such natural connecting-points, 10 mark the direction of a boundary, the proceedings will be governed and affected by this indispensable consideration; so to direct such a boundary, as to violate in the smallest possible degree, the understanding which existed, respecting the situations and magnitudes of the two shares.

ART. 6. And if the series of natural points discontinue, before this boundary has completed the extent of its course, and the said boundary, having reached the last of these points, emerge upon the uniform face of the country, so that, beyond that point, its direction be optional; the only consideration thenceforth existing, which can regulate the course of that final part of the boundary, is this : so to direct this final part,