

not attributable to any error in the work, for the work was well done, but to the inherent idiosyncrasies of the environing mass distribution. Because of this operation of connecting, or trying to connect, the astronomic stations there were now two lines cut at each of the three United States stations. Things could not be left in this condition. After discussion by the officers of the two commissions on March 4, 1861, "it was agreed that a mean parallel should be adopted, and a new line run and marked from the Similkameen to Statapoosten." And this new line was run and marked by the United States commission. Thus in places a third line was cut; this was the definitive line. This explains why on the ground several vistas through the woods existed side by side. From the position of the mean parallel at Statapoosten the British commission subsequently ran the line to connect with the astronomic stations on the Columbia. Here, too, the line suffered a deflection to the north, namely of 212 feet. As already mentioned the cairns should all have been removed from the preliminary lines joining astronomic stations, and only those left which were on the final line. The circumstance that this was not done added to subsequent mystification, but the finding of the original records and final report cleared up everything.

It may be interesting to continue the story and recount what happened in Washington. Marcus Baker, cartographer, made a report on June 9, 1900, to the director of the U. S. Geological Survey on this boundary line. He searched the various departments in Washington for documents pertaining to the survey and had personal interviews and correspondence with men then living who had been officially connected with the boundary survey, with a view to throwing light, if possible, on "the most important document of all," the final report, but failed, as had Captain George M. Wheeler, U. S. A., in a previous search in 1889. Baker adds to the above: "The search above mentioned I have now repeated and with like result. The manuscript has not been found." Further on Baker writes: "But the report, unfortunately, was not