

of Reference this Day took the said Letter into their Consideration, together with the Act of Parliament therein referred to, and likewise Copy of the said Paper describing the Line proposed to be drawn for separating the Province of Upper Canada, and the Province of Lower Canada; And Their Lordships do thereupon agree humbly to Report as Their Opinion to Your Majesty, That it may be adviseable for Your Majesty by Your Order in Council to divide the province of Quebec into Two distinct Provinces by separating the Province of Upper Canada, and the Province of Lower Canada, according to the said Line of Division described in the said paper (Copy of which is hereunto annexed); And The Lords of the Committee are further of Opinion, that it may be adviseable for Your Majesty, by Warrant under Your Royal Sign Manual to Authorize the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, or the person Administering the Government there, to fix and Declare such Day for the Commencement of the said beforementioned Act within the said Two Provinces of Upper & Lower Canada respectively, as the said Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, or the person Administering the Government there, shall judge most adviseable, Provided that such day shall not be later, than the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of December in the present year 1791."

His Majesty this Day took the said Report into His Royal Consideration, and approving of what is therein proposed, is pleased, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council to Order (as it is hereby Ordered) that the Province of Quebec<sup>1</sup> be divided into Two distinct Provinces, to be called the province of Upper Canada, and the province of Lower Canada, by separating the said two Provinces, according to the following Line of Division—viz<sup>t</sup>

"To commence at a Stone Boundary, on the North Bank of the Lake St. Francis; At the Cove west of pointe au Bodet, in the limit between the Township of Lancaster and the Seigneurie of New Longueuil running along the said limit in the direction of North Thirty four Degrees; West to the Westernmost Angle of the said Seigneurie of New Longueuil,<sup>2</sup> thence along the North western boundary of the Seigneurie of Vaudreuil running North Twenty five Degrees, East until it strikes the Ottawas River, to ascend the said River into the Lake Tomiscanning. and from the head of the said Lake, by a line drawn due North until it strikes the boundary line of Hudsons Bay, including all the Territory to the westward and southward of the said Line, to the utmost Extent of the Country commonly called or known by the Name of Canada."<sup>3</sup> Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief of the Province of Quebec, and all other His Majesty's Officers in the said Provinces, and all whom it may concern, are to take Notice, and to yield due obedience to His Majesty's Pleasure hereby signified.

1. For the boundaries of the Province of Quebec see page 51, note 4.

2. A note on the plan of part of the province of Lower Canada made by order of Lord Dorchester, 1794 and 1795, referring to this line of division, says: "This Order of His Majesty must have been founded on an erroneous map of this part of the country, in which the abovementioned *Westerly Angle* of the Seigneurie of New Longueuil, and the *South-westerly Angle* of the Seigneurie of Vaudreuil were represented as *coincident* with each other, whereas they are, in reality, many miles distant one from the other."

"The true intent and meaning of His Majesty's Royal Order appears to be this:—That the boundary, between the said provinces of Lower and Upper Canada shall commence at the abovementioned stone boundary above Pointe au Beaudette, and shall run along the line which divides the township of Lancaster from the Seigneurie of New Longueuil, then along a line to be drawn from the said westerly angle of the Seigneurie of New Longueuil to the southwest-erly angle of the Seigneurie of Rigaud (which has been sometimes called the Seigneurie of Vaudreuil), thence along the northwesterly boundary of the said Seigneurie of Rigaud until it strikes the Ottawa river (to wit—along the lines AB, BC, and CD, on this map) and thence up the said river, &c."

For this plan see p. 72.

3. The general line of division between Upper and Lower Canada had been indicated by Lord Sydney in his despatch to Dorchester, Sept. 3, 1788. (*Constitutional Documents, 1759-1791*, Shortt and Doughty, 1907, p. 652 and Canadian Archives, Q. 36-2, p. 476). It had been expressed in the form here given by Lord Dorchester. (*Constitutional Documents*, p. 656).