

Letter from Sir
Thomas Temple,
Nov. 24, 1668.

with the Indians. There is a letter extant, from Sir Thomas Temple to the Lords of the Council, dated November 24, 1668, from which it appears, that the route was known to the French Court before that time, the "passage by land," evidently referring to the "height of land."

"M. Dubourg informs me, that the Most Christian King intended to "plant a Colony at Pentagoet (Penobscot), and make a *passage by land* to "Quebec, his greatest town in Canada, being but three days' journey distant."

Topographical
description of North
America, by T.
Pownall, 1776.

This *height of land* was described in books, and most prominently set forth in maps, long before the revolt of the British Colonies, and the independence of the United States. In the map published by Lewis Evans of Philadelphia, in 1755, and which Governor Pownall annexed to his work in 1776, it is laid down with the supposed situation of the portages over it. Pownall thus speaks of it:—

"This River (the Kennebec), in the year 1754 and 1755, was talked "of as a route, by which an army might pass the best and shortest way to "attack Canada and Quebec. The route was supposed to be by an Indian "path, or carrying place, which going off from Kennebaeg, about eight or "ten miles above Noridgewaeg, in a north-west course of six or seven miles, "came to a pond which issued into the River Chaudière."

Although Pownall's work was published in London in 1776, the information was collected during the period he was Governor of Massachusetts, just previously to the war with France in 1756, and was at first intended for the impending contest. The map annexed to it was, as has been before observed, first published by Evans, in 1755, with the public assistance, and upon that Map, the Highlands which divide the St. Francis and the Chaudière, from the Connecticut, the Kennebec, and the Penobscot, are laid down and called "*Height of Land.*"

In the preface of Evans, dated August 9th, 1755, we find the following passage:—

"The Map, which these sheets accompany, and which they are intended "to explain, is presented to the public, when a longer time was indeed "necessary to have given it the degree of correctness that was intended it. "But the *present conjuncture of affairs in America, and the generous assistance of "the Assembly of Pennsylvania, have brought it to light.*"

The fact of its being published by the assistance of the Legislature, in addition to the great importance attached to it at that day, leaves the undeniable inference, that it must have been familiarly known in the British North American colonies; and that Franklin, Adams, and other leaders in the Congress, some of whom were Commissioners to treat for peace in 1782, must necessarily have consulted Pownall's work, published in 1776, at the commencement of hostilities with the revolted colonies, a period when the *height of land* was adverted to and described by him merely as a feature in the physical geography of that part of North America. When we look at certain passages in Pownall, and compare them with the language used in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, with the description of the future boundary proposed for the United States of America, found in the secret journals of the Congress, and with the terms of the Commissions of the Governors of Lower Canada and Nova Scotia, immediately after the Peace of 1763; the further inference is irresistible, that the Highlands mentioned in them are identical with the height of land we have been speaking of, and with the Highlands intended by the Second Article of the Treaty of 1783.

Highlands of the
Treaty of 1783,
identical with
Pownall's "height
of land."

And, as we have found no difficulty in reconciling the natural features of the country with the language of the Treaty, but, on the contrary, have practically worked out the accordance between them, we proceed to collate the proofs from Pownall, which establish their general identity.

Pownal, p. 14.

"The great portion of this country which lies east of Hudson's River "and Lake Champlain, lies in the form of a lunette, or a quarter of a circle. The "first part, beginning at Long Island Sound, runs nearly north and south, and "then, in about north latitude 45°, curves *away eastward* to the Gulf of St. "Lawrence.

"The highest part of this tract of mountains may be defined by a line "drawn north-westerly from the white hills (about 44° 10') to the 45th parallel "of north latitude.

"Going from the same line, in latitude 45° of the greatest height of these