

of 48° 28' north, and continue due south along this meridian, until it falls into the *common* mid-channel course through Juan de Fuca Strait.

"It will thus be observed that the meridian of 123° is assumed as the boundary, and is only departed from when forced to do so by the physical interference of the islands."

This middle channel, though inferior in some respects to the Haro Channel, or to Rosario Straits, is described by Captain Richards as being perfectly safe for steamers, and also, under ordinary circumstances, navigable for sailing-vessels. Her Majesty's Government, however, do not consider this point as of much importance, since their proposition only extends to making this channel the line of boundary; and they do not propose to alter in any way that stipulation of the Treaty which secures to the shipping of both countries the free navigation of the whole of the channels and of the Straits—a stipulation advantageous to both parties, and which Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the Government of the United States will agree with them in thinking must, under all circumstances, be maintained.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that a boundary line traced through the above-mentioned central channel likewise recommends itself for adoption, as being in accordance with the principles which regulated the division between the two countries of the Islands in the River St. Lawrence.

Her Majesty's Government further submit to the Cabinet of Washington, whether, with a view to mutual convenience, it might not be desirable that the small promontory known as Point Roberts should be left to Great Britain. The point is of no intrinsic value to either Government, but its possession by the United States will have the effect of detaching an isolated spot of small dimensions from the more convenient jurisdiction of the British Colony. As the Government of the United States will obtain, under the proposal now made, the more valuable portions of the islands in the Straits, Her Majesty's Government consider that the retention of Point Roberts can hardly be an object with them.

There is one other consideration to which I should wish to draw the attention of the Government of the United States. In the discussions between