

opinion clear that Canada and New Brunswick *had legal boundaries*, before the treaty, and that *the new unassigned possession* was what Lord Ashburton obtained by the treaty, for which he has been so much villified? If the territory *outside of the legal boundaries* of Canada and New Brunswick did not belong to the State of Maine to what Province or State did it belong? I have now to consider the other treaties with the United States which have been the subject of condemnation by Canadian writers. The treaty of 1794 had for its chief object to determine the western boundary of Canada which had been fixed by the treaty of 1783 at the Mississippi river, at a point due west of the North-western Angle of the Lake of the Woods. It established the boundary on the 49th parallel of North latitude, very little north of the source of the Mississippi, and it settled the dispute as to the St. Croix of the treaty of 1783. The next treaty was that negotiated at Ghent at the close of the war which commenced in 1812. Adverting to this treaty Mr. Ramsay expresses his belief that Great Britain "might have avoided all the troubles of the Maine boundary had she retained her conquests, for she had taken Castine and other posts in Maine down to the Penobscot, and should have then settled in a practical manner the Maine boundary at that river, but, no! back she went to the old unsettled and disputed and unfair lines. The boundaries were to be as before the war." I may offer a remark or two on the foregoing opinion. The war of 1812 was declared by the United States on a question which had no reference to boundaries. A considerable portion of the citizens of the United States disapproved of it, and moreover some of the Northern States, notably Massachusetts, refused their aid. The treaty of Ghent was signed on 24th December, 1814, while the victory gained by General Jackson at New Orleans was on 8th January, 1815, about a fortnight later. Had the demand been made and insisted on, that Great Britain should retain all conquered posts, it is tolerably certain that the treaty would not have been signed, and that the effect of the victory at New Orleans would have been a demand on the part of the United States for better terms. Moreover, on the 1st March, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte landed in France from Elba, and there can be no doubt that but for the peace concluded at Ghent about two months previously Great Britain would have had difficulty in obtaining the conditions which she did. I am fully persuaded in my own mind that the United States would not have consented to a surrender of territory, and that the demand of such surrender would have united the entire population in a vigorous prosecution of the war. In his criticism on