

lands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which fall into the River St. Lawrence; comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States and lying between the lines drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova Scotia on the one part and East Florida on the other shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean, except such islands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the said Province of Nova Scotia.

Article III.—It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank and on all other banks of Newfoundland, also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and all other places in the sea where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish. And also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen shall use (but not to dry or cure the same on that island), and also on the coasts, bays, and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America, and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the same or either of them shall be settled it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors or possessors of the ground.

Article IV.—It is agreed that creditors on either side shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money of all *bona fide* debts heretofore contracted.

Article V.—It is agreed that the Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the Legislatures of the respective States to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights, and properties which have been confiscated belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of His Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States, and that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the thirteen United States and therein remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavors to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties as may have been confiscated, and that Congress shall earnestly recommend to the several States a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent not only with law and equity but that spirit of conciliation, which on the return of the blessings of peace should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several States that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons shall be returned to them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in the possession thereof of the *bona fide* price (where any has been given), which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights or properties since the confiscation. And it is agreed that all persons who have any interests in confiscated lands either by debts, marriage settlement or otherwise shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

Article VI.—That there shall be no future confiscations made nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons

for or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war, and that no person shall on that account suffer any future loss or damage either in his person, liberty or property, and that those who may be in confinement on such charges at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

Article VII.—There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said States, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore all hostilities both by sea and land shall immediately cease. All prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction or carrying away any negroes or other property of the American inhabitants, shall withdraw all his armies, garrisons, and fleets from the said United States, and from every fort, place and harbor within the same, leaving in all the fortifications the American artillery that may be therein, and shall order and cause all archives, records, deeds, and papers belonging to any of the said States or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper States and persons to whom they belong.

Article VIII.—The navigation of the River Mississippi from its source to the ocean shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States.

Article IX.—In case it should happen that any place or territory belonging to Great Britain or the United States should be conquered by the arms of either from the other before the arrival of these articles in America it is agreed that the same shall be restored without difficulty and without requiring any compensation.

Done at Paris on the thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

RICHARD OSWALD, (L.S.)
JOHN ADAMS, (L.S.)
B. FRANKLIN, (L.S.)
JOHN JAY, (L.S.)
HENRY LAURENS, (L.S.)

Witness,

CALEB WHITEFORD,
Secretary to the British Commission.

W. F. FRANKLIN,
Secretary to the American Commission.

This extraordinary document put the final seal to the separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain, a movement which had its rise in the treason of the Whig faction, and its appropriate ending in the robbing of their native country. If the student of the history of this period can be amazed at any transaction, no matter how strange, of the men who swayed the destinies of Great Britain at this crisis it will be that of the extreme liberality with which they bestowed the half of the North American continent on a set of beaten rebels—for it must be remembered that the boundaries of the Thirteen Colonies to the westward never passed the line claimed by the French, and which can be shortly described as one drawn due south from Presque Isle on Lake Erie, where the city of Erie now stands, to the Alleghany River, and along that stream to the Ohio, which is formed by its junction

with the Mongahela at Pittsburg (Fort du Quesno), and thence to the Mississippi along the course of the Ohio.

The absurd provisions of this treaty gave them seven degrees of latitude and over seventeen of longitude—nearly 360,000 square miles—the garden of the continent, and the command of the Great Lakes, with absolute control of the fur trade, at that time the great staple of Canada, without a shadow of pretence thereto.

When the Quebec merchants sent a deputation to Earl Shelburne, then at the head of the British Administration, remonstrating on the direct injury he was doing the gallant inhabitants of that loyal dependency by placing a monopoly of their trade in the hands of enemies and a foreign power, to whom this treaty, by virtually handing over the western garrisons and the Indians, secured a preponderance of power. His Lordship was very much amazed that such a result should follow, and coolly asked them whether they could not get their furs by way of New York. This memorable meeting took place on the 31st of January, 1783, and is a fair sample of the Whig ignorance which could barter away the rights of British subjects and the honor of the Empire to answer their own selfish purposes.

Another wonderful provision in this treaty is the faint stipulations made in favor of the loyalists who fought against the rebels, and whose property had been confiscated by the Congress and State Legislatures, in very many cases without a shilling having been paid for it, but passed away to some ultra rebel at a mere nominal price, while the real owner was left to beggary. One example of the infamous manner in which those people were treated will illustrate this piece of Whig policy. Skenesboro, on the shores of Lake Champlain, near where White Hall now stands, was settled shortly after the close of the war of 1754-64 by a Major Skene, a gentleman of great wealth and an officer who had served with distinction under Amherst. When the rebellion broke out in 1775 he naturally, with his sons, offered his services to his Sovereign; was with Burgoyne's army and only saved from its disgraceful capture by being despatched to England on duty. In his absence his dwelling was plundered and burnt, thousands of pounds worth of money and valuables were carried away, and his lands declared confiscated by Congress, sold to the amount of some 12,000 acres to some needy dependent or relative of John Adams at a nominal price of \$400 and never paid for, yet the British Government totally failed to get this gallant officer compensation. Now up to the period of the skirmish at Concord the Congress pretended to no sovereign power, and could claim no allegiance of any party. On what principle was it then that the Whig rulers of England recognized its acts of robbery in a solemn treaty, and did not insist on a full reparation. It can truly