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he proposed it.

But before I proceed to the discussion of this
intention, let me endeavor to show from the
provisions of the treaty itself that this claim
of the British Government is foreclosed and
concluded. The first article of the proposed
convention reads as follows, and, as I have
remarked, is identical in language with the first
article of the treaty:

"From the point on the forty-ninth parallel of
north latitude where the boundary laid down in ex-
isting treaties and conventions between Great Brit-
ain and the United States terminates, the line of
boundary between the territories of her Britannic
Majesty and those of the United States shall be con-
tinued westward along the said forty-ninth parallel
of north latitude to the middle of the channel which
separates the continent from Vancouver's Island;
and thence southerly, through the middle of the said
channel and of Fuca's straits, to the Pacific ocean;
Provided, however, That the navigation of the whole
of the said channel and straits south of the forty-
ninth parallel of north latitude remain free and open
to both parties."

The leading subject of this article is the
channel which separates the continent from
Vancouver's Island. It was then well known,
from charts and maps which were before Lord
Aberdeen, particularly Vancouver's map, that
east of Vancouver's Island, and between it
and the shore of the main continent, lay a
group of twelve or fifteen islands, forming an
extensive archipelago, which islands were sepa-
rated from each other by numerous channels
or straits, such as are common in the geog-
raphy of the world.

These islands lie, and were then known to
lie, between the eastern shore of Vancouver's
Island and the western shore of the continent,
which two shores are upon an average about
fifty miles apart, and the channels are of course
as numerous as the islands. Looking from
the north, and following down through these
numerous channels, they all seem to converge
and unite in the straits of Fuca, which lead
from the north, seeming to drain the various
channels out around the southern cape of Van-
couver's Island into the Pacific ocean, drawing
the waters, so to speak, from latitude 49° north,
southwardly, and then westwardly around the
south cape of Vancouver into the open sea
through those straits.

The first article prescribes that that "chan-
nel" shall be followed "which separates the
continent from Vancouver's Island."

Why was this expression used? The British
Government had all along through this
negotiation claimed not only the whole of this
archipelago, but also the whole region of
country to the south of it and north of the
Columbia river.

On this point the correspondence is perfectly
conclusive.

Why did Lord Aberdeen say the "middle
of the channel which separates the continent

from Vancouver's Island?" What other mo-
tive could he have had but to reassert and
keep up the claim to the whole of Vancouver's
Island? This was plainly his sole object. He
could not have intended to claim another
island in that archipelago, or any channel
which would have given him San Juan or any
other of those islands lying east of the middle
of the channel which gave him Vancouver,
because if such had been his intention, he
would have used an expression different from
the one he employed; he would have said the
channel which separates such and such islands
between the two shores from the continent.
Instead of this, he designates solely the chan-
nel which separates the continent from Van-
couver. Vancouver was the sole object to be
segregated from the territory his Government
had up to that moment claimed. This was
plainly his sole object.

If his object had been different, if it included
other islands than Vancouver and its proper
appendages, he would have used different lan-
guage; but his designation of Vancouver as a
part of the disputed territory to be left ex-
pressly in the possession of Great Britain is a
perfectly clear concession to the United States
of all other islands belonging to that archi-
pelago, and lying between the continent and
Vancouver.

The channel here mentioned is the one
which "separates the continent from Van-
couver." The great object is to keep Vancouver,
and to exclude it from the concession about to
be made to the United States. No other chan-
nel but that of De Haro can with any propriety
be said to do this. No channel lying east of
it and east of other islands can be said to sepa-
rate the continent from Vancouver. The
language would be wholly inappropriate. The
channel next east of San Juan is "President's
passage;" next east of which is a group of
half a dozen islands irregularly located; and
next east of these is Rosario strait, so called,
running round east of that group, forming a
sort of semicircle, commencing at the north,
where it forms a part of the Gulf of Georgia,
and stretching around near to the mainland
to the straits of Fuca, but containing many
small islands within itself, and leaving still
more islands between its eastern rim and the
mainland, or continent proper. To speak of
this Rosario strait as separating the contin-
ent from Vancouver's Island is equally ab-
surd; for precisely the same thing may be
said of half a dozen other channels among the
numerous islands.

The treaty channel has a "middle," and is
connected expressly and by direct terms in the
article with Fuca straits and the Pacific ocean.
The language is, "the middle of said channel
and of Fuca straits;" showing that this "mid-
dle" is one line, though running through two
geographical water communications, the de-