

mountains by which it is bounded,* as far as the 139th degree of longitude west of the said meridian.'

This *projet* having been communicated to Count Lieven, the Russian Ambassador took exception to the line following the base of the mountains instead of the summit, pointing out that, in view of the limited knowledge of the geographical features of the north-west coast available, it might turn out that the mountains forming the boundary reached by an imperceptible slope to the water's edge. So well did Count Lieven understand the British proposal that he was apprehensive lest the boundary line might actually coincide with the coast. To obviate that possibility he suggested that the crest of the mountains—the same mountains, be it observed—be taken instead of the base.

Canning ultimately agreed to this, but, commenting upon a new move of the Russians, qualified his assent by insisting that the mountains should be the boundary only where they did not extend more than ten leagues from the coast, otherwise, said he, foreseeing the inaccuracy of the maps before them, 'we might be assigning to Russia immense tracts of inland territory where we only intended to give, and they only intended to ask, a *strip of sea-coast*.'*

This is his final instruction to Stratford Canning. At the conclusion of the negotiations Stratford Canning writes:—

'The line of demarcation along the strip of land on the north-west coast of America assigned to Russia is laid down in the Convention *agreeably to your directions*,* notwithstanding some difficulties raised on this point, as well as on that which regards the order of the articles by the Russian plenipotentiaries.'

In acknowledging the receipt of this communication, Mr. Canning says:—

'Having laid them' (the despatches transmitting the Convention) 'before the King, I have received his Majesty's commands to express his Majesty's particular satisfaction at the conclusion of the treaty respecting the Pacific Ocean and north-west coast of America in a manner *so exactly conformable to your instructions*,* and to direct you to express to the Russian Government the pleasure which his Majesty derives from the amicable and conciliatory spirit manifested by that Government in the completion of this transaction.'

While it is true that the limiting words 'by which it is bounded,' which appear in the earlier draft furnished by Canning to Bagot, are not found in the final *projet* sent to Stratford Canning, their equivalent, 'seaward base,' never-

* In the original these words are not italicised.