

In order to make amends, as far as practicable, for so much time unavoidably lost, this division continued to prosecute its field duties north of the forty-seventh degree of latitude, until several weeks after the severities of winter had commenced, with no other protection than their tents; the commissioner in charge of it believing that the expectations of the Government, and of the country generally, would but be fulfilled by the investigations in relation to this important line being pushed to the utmost attainable point. But for this, it would have been impossible to have reached the St. John's river the late season.

There remains to be surveyed along this meridian line, in order to reach the northwest angle of Nova Scotia, as claimed by the United States, about sixty-four miles, to accomplish which will require another season of active field duty.

2. In the estimate for the work of the divisions of A. Talcott and J. Renwick, it was assumed that the length of the boundary remaining on the line claimed by the United States, was three hundred and twenty miles, and upon the lines claimed by Great Britain, one hundred and seventy miles.

Of the latter, about one half was undertaken by Major Graham's division,* leaving for the estimated distance to be surveyed by the divisions of A. Talcott and J. Renwick, four hundred and five miles.

It will appear by the statement hereinbefore given, that the joint surveys of these two divisions upon the lines of highlands have actually amounted to five hundred and seventy-four miles. Upon the principle of their estimate, the probable cost of this would have amounted to forty-nine thousand seven hundred and forty-six dollars and thirty-seven cents, and, with the addition for instruments, and for the additional cost of the more remote parts of the line, to fifty-seven thousand seventy-nine dollars and seventy cents.

The actual cost, including the foregoing estimate, for the completion of the work, is fifty-four thousand dollars.

It will appear, therefore, that when the increased extent of the work performed, over that made the basis of the estimate, is considered, the cost of performing it, so far from having exceeded the estimate, has fallen short of it by three thousand dollars.

The reason of the discrepancy between the real extent of the line, as actually measured, and that which formed the basis of the calculation, is, that the latter was made by reference to the best existing maps, which were considered to be entitled to a certain degree of credit. Upon the close examination which the operations of the late season have afforded, these maps have been ascertained to be exceedingly erroneous. Well-known streams have been found to extend in either direction, many miles beyond the points at which their sources have been laid down on the maps, and great rivers and lakes have, as it were, been discovered, of which no delineation had ever been given by geographers. The extent of these errors in remote and difficultly-accessible points, may be inferred from what has been found to occur in the part of the region which is most accessible, best known, and most frequently traversed.

On the Temiscouata portage, a road travelled weekly by the mail of her Britannic majesty, continually passed by the officers of her various services,

* It has already been stated, that in the survey of the portion of this line allotted to Major Graham, there were actually measured upon it, with the chain, two hundred and seventy-six miles, and this did not constitute more than one half the labor and expense incident to all the duties enumerated and performed by his division, on his portion, so much did the work required upon this portion of it exceed what was estimated for the whole of it.