

it can be done consistently with, or in conformity with the intent of the treaty." A line due north from the source of the western or main branch of the Schoudiac or St. Croix, will fully secure this effect to the United States in every instance, and also to Great Britain in all instances except in that of the river St. John's, wherein it becomes *impossible*, by reason, that the sources of this river are to the westward, not only of the western boundary line of Nova Scotia, but of the sources of the Penobscot, and even of the Kennebec, so that this north line *must, of necessity, cross the St. John's*, but it will cross it in a part of it almost at the foot of the highlands, and where it ceases to be navigable. But if a north line is traced from the source of the Cheputmatecook, it will not only cross the river St. John's within about fifty miles from Frederickton, the metropolis of New Brunswick, but will cut off the sources of the rivers which fall into the Bay of Chaleurs, if not many others, probably of the Meramichi, among them which fall into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and thereby be productive of inconvenient consequences to the two powers, if not of contention between them, instead of "terminating their differences in such a manner as may be best calculated to produce mutual satisfaction and good understanding, which is one of the principal and avowed objects of the treaty." At this time, then, there was no doubt that the line running due north to the highlands of the treaty must cross the St. John's river; and if the starting point was carried east, it is admitted that such line would cut off the Restigouche, which is nearly as far north as our claim; and certainly the line was to run equally far north, whether the starting point was east or west, unless the highlands inclined to the south; and yet we are now required, as a preliminary, to admit that the St. John's and Restigouche are not Atlantic rivers, within the meaning of the treaty. In 1814, when the negotiations which resulted in the treaty of Ghent were in progress, no pretence was made that our line did not extend beyond the St. John's, and according to our present views.

Great Britain, then, by her negotiators, expressly stated that she "desires the *revision* of the frontier between her North American dominions and these of the United States, not with any view to an acquisition of territory, as such, but for the purpose of securing her possessions, and preventing, in future, disputes, and such a *variation* of the line of frontier as may secure a direct communication between Quebec and Halifax." And when our negotiators peremptorily refused to agree to any *cession* of territory, the answer was, that they "were not prepared to anticipate the objections contained in the note of the American plenipotentiaries, that they were instructed to treat for a revision of their boundary lines, with the statement which they have subsequently made, that they had no authority to *cede* any part, however insignificant, of the territories of the United States, although the proposals left it open for them to demand an *equivalent* for such cession, in territory or otherwise." And yet, now that territory, which they then offered to pay us for, is claimed as clearly their own; and that line which then was admitted and recognised as including the territory as claimed by us, is now declared to be impracticable, and must be abandoned, and a more convenient one sought for and established.

I feel most sensibly, that the question now presented is one of very grave importance, and that the action now to be had by the Legislature of Maine may, and probably will, have a very material influence upon the relations between this Government and Great Britain.

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