

from a profound ignorance of the country, she adopted a new line, passing through the middle of the St. Lawrence and the great lakes, instead of that which was to have gone through the centre of Lakes Champlain and St. George, and which Mr. Adams, the American ambassador, was ready to adopt. It is of immense consequence to our argument to bear always in mind that what formerly belonged to France, on the continent of America, after the treaty of Quebec, belonged to Great Britain; and it is very curious that there is to be found on the public archives in Quebec, a grant from the French government of Canada, called "the fief of Madawaska," dated prior to the charter of Massachusetts, viz. 1683, conveying to a French subject a large territory, *in that very district* now claimed by the United States. This fief of Madawaska includes the whole of the Temisquata Lake, and nine miles further in length down the Madawaska River, extending in depth six miles for the whole distance, as well around the lake as on each side of the river. Various proceedings and actions under the authority of this act, and by virtue of the original grant, have continued without interruption, under the jurisdiction of Lower Canada, from its first date until the present day.

The words of the Treaty of 1783, in its first and second Articles, are as follows:—

"Article I. His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, sovereign, and independent States; that He treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

"Article II. And that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz. from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle *which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of Saint Croix River to the Highlands. along the said Highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the River Saint Lawrence, from those which fall into the ATLANTIC OCEAN,* to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut River; thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; from thence by a line due west on said latitude until it strikes the River Iroquois or Cataraquy; thence along the middle of said river into Lake Ontario; through the middle of said lake, until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into Lake Erie; through the middle of said lake, until it arrives at the water-communication between that lake and Lake Huron; thence along the middle of said water-communication into the Lake Huron; thence through the middle of said lake to the water-communication between that lake and