

arose in the construction of this expression, ended in the war of 1756, and the annexation of all the possessions of France in North America to the British Empire. Conquest of Canada.

We have entered into this brief historical sketch, to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, that the most ancient limits of Acadie are those described in the letters patent to De Monts in 1603, from the fortieth to the *forty-sixth degree of north latitude*; and that this parallel, when protracted through the disputed territory to the west, passes through the Highlands at the very point where they divide the sources of the Chaudière from the most western waters of the Penobscot. That these same Highlands continued from thence running south of the River St. John, in a north-east direction, as far as the western termination of the Bay of Chaleurs, appears to have been known at an early period. In proof of this, there is in the British Museum a map of Coronelli published in Paris, 1689, where the course of these Highlands is obviously laid down as a natural boundary line betwixt Canada and the British colonies; for the line is protracted the whole distance from the Bay of Chaleurs, in a south-west direction, as far as the Colony of Virginia, and separates the possessions respectively held by the English and French. Every thing to the north of that line is coloured yellow, and every thing to the south of it, including the Peninsula where Annapolis is, is coloured a light green. The distance upon this map of the most north-western branch of the Penobscot from the St. Lawrence, as well as the mean distance of the whole divisional line, and of its termination at the Bay of Chaleurs, is 100 miles by scale. This line represents with great fidelity, the position and course of the boundary line described in the II<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Treaty of 1783, and is identical with the boundary line of the Royal Proclamation of 1763.\*

Definition of the ancient limits of "Acadie."

Another Map by Coronelli, dated 1689.

Vide Extract No. 8, of Map B.

We also find proofs in various concessions made by the Crown of France in ancient times, that all its grants made further to the north than the limits of the patent of De Monts, were placed within the jurisdiction of the castle of St. Louis at Quebec; from whence the inference may be fairly drawn, that the country, north of the 46th parallel, was considered at all times to be within the jurisdiction of Quebec. We shall quote a passage from one of these grants, before we enter upon this branch of the subject in more detail.

"Concession de M. de la Barre, Gouverneur de Canada, et M. de Meules, Intendant de la Nouvelle France, à Renes d'Amours, Sieur de Aignancourt, de terres à la Rivière de Saint Jean, près de Medoctet, du 20 Septembre, 1684."

Concession of the Fief of Meductic, 1684.

The fief of Meductic thus conceded, lies north of the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude, and the feoffee is bound in the grant to bear "foi et homage à Sa Majesté, au Chateau de St. Louis de cette ville. Donné à Quebec, le 20 Septembre, 1684."

Having established this point, we wish to advert to the pretensions set up at various periods, to a right which Massachusetts has been alleged to have had before the Peace of 1763, to extend her jurisdiction to the St. Lawrence River.

Claim of Massachusetts to go to the St. Lawrence.

Upon Mitchell's map we find a *due north line*, carried out from the head waters of the St. Croix to the River St. Lawrence, and intersecting it a few minutes to the east of the sixty-seventh degree of west longitude; and it has been argued in America †, that if the Royal Proclamation of 1763 had not extended the jurisdiction of the Province of Quebec, south of the River Saint Lawrence, the north-west angle of Nova Scotia would have been at the point of this intersection. In answer to this, it may be sufficient to observe, as has been briefly noted at page 12, that when James the First granted the Province of Nova Scotia, in 1621, to an English subject, the same country had been already conceded by the King of France, in 1603, to De Monts, as far as the 46th degree of north latitude, and that the territory north of that parallel to the shores of the St. Lawrence had already been for

Lands north of the 46th parallel possessed by France 80 years before the grant of 1621. Claim of Massachusetts to go to the St. Lawrence, annulled by the restoration of the country to France, 1632.

\* Vide Map B, No. 8.

† Mr. Buchanan's Report from the Committee on foreign relations, to the Senate of the United States, July 4, 1838, p. 3.