

Meaning of the
word Scoodeag.

name of *Cheputnaticook*. The westernmost sources of the Scoodeag are in a low, flat, lake country, consisting of many lakes running into each other, and hence the Indian name given to that part of the country and to the river; for *Scoodeag* means *low, swamp meadow*. Now the very continuity of its name should have convinced the Commissioners of the impropriety of deviating from that line. But the British Commissioner was overruled. He had, in conjunction with the American Commissioner, chosen an American gentleman, upon whose intelligence and integrity he relied, for the third Commissioner. This gentleman was, in point of fact, an umpire to decide all differences which might arise; and the American Commissioner having claimed a stream called *Magaguadavic*, lying still further to the east than the *Cheputnaticook*, to be the true St. Croix, the British Commissioner consented to a compromise, the result of which was, that although they made a correct decision as to the identity of the St. Croix, they practically decided to adopt the north source, as if it had been the most western source. That these gentlemen went out of the line of their duty, as prescribed in the Treaty of 1794, is evident; and much future expense and misunderstanding would have been saved, if their report had been restricted to the identification of the river. This will be seen by looking to the map.

The Saint John, like all other large rivers, occupies the lowest level of the country through which it flows, and holds its course through a valley of considerable breadth, which below Mars' Hill extends, in a modified manner, some distance to the westward of the bed of the river. The nearer a *due north line* could be brought to the Saint John, the better the chance was that it would run up that valley, whilst the further it lay to the west, the greater was the certainty of its missing that valley and of its more speedily meeting the highlands of the country. And this has in practice proved to be the case; for the exploratory north line drawn from the monument, reached no highlands until it came to Mars' Hill; whilst if the line had started from its true point, the westernmost waters of the *Scoodeag*, it would have reached the "highlands" about twenty-five miles south of Mars' Hill, near to the point where they separate the St. Croix (a tributary of the Roostuc) from the waters of the Meduxnakeag, which flows into the St. John. These highlands are distinctly visible from the American post at Houlton, and are about fifteen miles, magnetic west, from that post. This deviation of the Commissioners from their duty, which has had a most unfortunate influence upon the settlement of this great question, was besides highly prejudicial in another respect to the British rights. If it should be ultimately assented to, it will lose to Great Britain more than one million of acres of land.

Explanatory
Article of 1798,
made part of the
Treaty of 1794.

In 1798, an explanatory Article was added to the Treaty of Amity of 1794, releasing the Commissioners from their obligation to conform to the provisions of the Vth Article of the Treaty, in respect to particularizing the *latitude and longitude* of the source of the River St. Croix; and declaring, amongst other things, that the decision of the said Commissioners "respecting the place" ascertained and described to be the source of the said River St. Croix shall be permanently binding "upon His Majesty and the United States."

The true source of
the St. Croix, at its
north-westernmost
head.

Upon this, we beg to remark, that it has been made sufficiently manifest, that the Treaty of 1783 intended that the point of departure of the due north line should be at the westernmost source of the St. Croix, the description of the western limits of Nova Scotia having been regularly maintained unaltered in all the documents from the grant of 1621. The proceedings of Congress, also, as found in the secret journals, always speak of "*the boundary settled between Massachusetts and Nova Scotia*," and of the line being to be settled "*agreeably to their respective rights*."

To all these considerations, we add the important fact, that in the Vth Article of the Treaty of Ghent, it is stipulated that the ascertainment of the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, is to be made "in conformity with the provisions of the said Treaty of Peace of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three." A fact which further confirms the general obligation to consider the most western waters of the St. Croix, as the true boundary of Nova Scotia.

The irresistible conclusion then presents itself, that it is indispensable to the faithful execution of the IIInd Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1783, that