

"A line due north from a source of the western or main branch of the Scoudiac or St. Croix will fully secure this effect to the United States in every instance and also to Great Britain in all instances except the river St. John wherein it becomes impossible by reason that the source of this river is to the westward not only of the western boundary line of Nova Scotia, but of the sources of the Penobscot and even of the Konnebec, so that this north line must of necessity cross the river St. John. But if a north line is traced from the source of the Cheputnatecook, it will not only cross the river St. John within about fifty miles from Fredericton, the metropolis of New Brunswick, but will cut off the sources of the rivers which fall into the Bay of Chaleurs, if not of many others probably the Mirramichi among them, which fall into the gulph of St. Lawrence."

*Letter of ROBERT LISTON, Esquire, Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, at Washington, to the British Agent under the Treaty of 1794.*

PROVIDENCE, 23d Oct. 1798.

Private.

Sir—I have considered with attention your letter of this day, and it appears to me evident that the adoption of the river Cheputnatecook as a part of the Boundary between His Majesty's American dominions and those of the United States, in preference to a line drawn from the easternmost point of the Scodiac Lakes would be attended with considerable advantage. It would give an addition of territory to the Province of New Brunswick together with a greater extent of navigation on St. John's river: and above all a larger stretch of natural frontier, calculated to prevent future difficulties and discussions between the two countries. If therefore by assenting to the proposal of the American Agent you can bring about the unanimous concurrence of the Commissioners in this measure, I am of opinion that you will promote His Majesty's real interests: and I will take the earliest opportunity with a view to your justification, of expressing these my sentiments on the subject to His Majesty's Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be with great truth and regard, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
 ROB. LISTON.  
 Ward Chipman, Esq.

[NOTE. The river Cheputnatecook was selected and established, as recommended in the above letter, to be the river St. Croix. For further extracts from the Argument of the British Agent, see Appendix to American Statements, pages 270 to 274.]