

Amongst other things, the Committee report,—

“With respect to the boundaries of the States, &c., Massachusetts claims under the Charter granted by William and Mary, October, 1691,” &c.

“It is incumbent on us to show that the territorial rights of the thirteen United States, while in the character of British colonies, were the same with those defined in the instructions given to Mr. J. Adams on the 14th day of August, 1779.”

The proposition made in 1782, by the American negotiators, to make the St. John the boundary, rejected by the British Government.

The proposition abandoned, and the St. Croix substituted by the American negotiators.

Testimony of Mr. John Adams.

During the discussion of the preliminaries in 1782, the proposition contained in the Report of the Committee of Congress, and which was agreed to on the 19th of March, 1779, to make the River St. John the boundary from its source to its mouth, was again brought forward by the American Commissioners, but was peremptorily rejected by the English Government.

The American Commissioners then abandoned their proposition to make the River St. John the boundary, and agreed to substitute the St. Croix River. The same Mr. John Adams, when examined on oath by the Commissioners under the Treaty of Amity of 1794, for ascertaining the true St. Croix, stated that:—

“One of the American Commissioners at first proposed the River St. John, as marked on Mitchell’s map; but his colleagues observing, that as the St. Croix was the river mentioned* in the Charter of Massachusetts Bay, they could not justify insisting on the St. John as an ultimatum, he agreed with them to adhere to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay.”

To another interrogatory, Mr. Adams replied:—

“The ultimate agreement, was to adhere to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay, and to the St. Croix River mentioned in it, which was supposed to be delineated in Mitchell’s map.”

At length, the boundary was definitely agreed upon, as we find it described in the IInd Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1783; and the dividing lines between the United States and the King’s dominions, were for ever declared to be as follows:—

Second Article of the Treaty of 1783.

“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 the St. Croix River to the Highlands, along the said Highlands which divide those Rivers that empty themselves into the River St. 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 Cataraguy; 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 Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior, northward of the Isles Royal and Philipeaux, to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the water-communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods; thence through the said lake to the most north-western point thereof; and from thence, on a due west course, to the River Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said River Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude; south, by a line to be drawn due east, from the determination of the line last mentioned, in the latitude of thirty-one degrees north of the equator, to the middle of the River Apalachicola, or Catahouche; thence along the middle thereof, to its junction with the Flint River; thence straight to the Head of St. Mary’s River; and thence down along the middle of St. Mary’s River to the Atlantic Ocean;—east, by a line to be drawn along

* He should have said “intended,” as the St. Croix is not named.