

Vergennes. The treaty of Paris was only ratified at Paris on 3rd Sept., 1783, while Dr. Franklin's letter with the map was dated 6th Dec., 1782, subsequent to the agreement between the British and American Commissioners as to the preliminaries, which was concluded 30th Nov., 1782. The result of my investigations has been to convince me that throughout the negotiations the Count de Vergennes, acting, I have no doubt, in the interest of France, was employing his influence to prevent Great Britain and the United States coming to an amicable settlement of the questions at issue. He was doing all in his power to induce the American Commissioners to make excessive demands in regard to their claims, while he was at the same time pressing the English Minister to refuse his consent to them. I may here remark that I do not rely entirely on English historians for my assertions as to the duplicity of the Count de Vergennes. I can refer any, who doubt the correctness of my statement, to the history of F. C. Schlosser, Professor of History in the University of Heidelberg, translated into English by D. Davidson, M.A. Such a writer may at all events be considered impartial. The preliminary articles of peace with the United States were not only signed some time before the conclusion of the negotiations with France, but were by mutual agreement to be kept secret from the Count de Vergennes. Under such circumstances, when the Count de Vergennes wrote to Dr. Franklin a few days after the secret agreement between the British and American negotiators, requesting him to mark on a map the limits as settled by the preliminaries—a matter in which France had no interest, but in which the Count de Vergennes had been actively interfering for his own purposes—I can readily conceive that Dr. Franklin may have thought it expedient to baffle the French intriguer by throwing him off the scent. Firmly convinced as I am that Dr. Franklin never could have intended to sanction such a boundary as that described by Jared Sparks, I had ventured to surmise the motive which I have just stated, but I have reason to believe that the celebrated map of Sparks' was a very old French one, of which there were many copies, and that it was never used by Dr. Franklin. It is worthy of notice, in connection with the "red line map" that it is rather inconsistent in those who believe in its authenticity, to condemn Mr. Oswald as they have done, Mr. Ramsay calling him "a man of no merit," whereas, if he had succeeded in obtaining from "the astute Franklin, Adams, and Jay" not only all contended for by Great Britain but even more than she had ever claimed, which is Mr. Jared Spark's