

tended by the treaty of 1783; and as to the rest he *advices* that it will be *convenient* (il conviendra) to adopt the "Thalweg," the deepest channel of the St. John's and St. Francis, for the north line; and that the 45th degree is to be measured in order to mark out the boundary to the St. Lawrence, with a deviation so as to include Rouse's point within the United States. As to the *convenience* of establishing the St. John's and St. Francis as the northern boundary of Maine, we have only to observe that however "convenient" it may be to Great Britain to obtain so large a portion of our territory and waters, it would certainly be very *inconvenient* to us, and inasmuch as we are probably capable of judging of our own "convenience," and have never solicited the *advice* of any one on this point, it is scarcely to be expected that we shall be *advised* to adopt a line so preposterous and injurious.

It was in this view, and in strict conformity with the constitution conferring the treaty power, that the President, on the 7th December, 1831, submitted to the Senate this "award" and "advice" of the king of the Netherlands. Senators were divided on a principal point; some insisting that to carry the award or opinion into effect, was only in *execution* of the treaty, and it therefore belonged exclusively to the President "to take care" that this "supreme law" was faithfully executed, or to reject it altogether.

But the prevailing opinion was, that this "award" or "advice" was *perfecting an unfinished treaty*, and that therefore it could not be effected by the President without "the advice and consent of the Senate, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein." So far from the concurrence of two-thirds for the measure, there were *thirty-four to eight against* it, and it was consequently rejected, and a recommendation to the President was adopted, to open a new negotiation to determine the line of boundary according to the treaty of 1783.

It is insisted by the British ministers that a due north line from the monument at the source of the St. Croix, will intersect no highlands described in the treaty of 1783. Now this is an assumption by Great Britain totally unwarranted by any evidence. The boundaries bearing upon the question are thus given: "from the northwest angle of Nova Scotia, to wit, 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 the rivers that empty themselves into the St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river;" "east by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth, in the bay of Fundy, to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic ocean from those which fall into the St. Lawrence."

The first object, starting-place, or *terminus a quo*, is this *northwest angle of Nova Scotia*. It is the corner of the British province, *designated by themselves*. It was presumed, and it is still believed, that they knew the identical spot; we have a right to demand of them to define it. In the treaty of 1783, they were disposed to define it, and hence they say it is *that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of the St. Croix, to those highlands which divide the rivers that flow into the St. Lawrence from those which flow into the Atlantic ocean*.

Nothing can be more clear than that the British negotiators of the treaty of 1783 had reference to their east and west line, between Canada and