

and of no other cause whatever ; and this remark applies perhaps to the whole of Russian America, but with greater force to " the whole of that part of the coast which constitutes the subject of discussion and which extends from 59° north latitude to 54° 40'."

It is to be observed, that beyond the general mention of islands in the first sentence of Art. III., and the particular mention of Prince of Wales Island necessitated by its cession as an *island* to Russia, the other *islands* are not mentioned. This is not because their existence is ignored, but simply that as far as the objects of the treaty are in question there is nothing in the fact of their being islands, to distinguish them from the continent to which they belong. As the Americans have been insistent in pointing out, the negotiators knew so little of the local details that masses of land, that have since been discovered to consist of numerous islands, must then have been considered as peninsular, and what have since become known as straits, must then have been regarded as the estuaries of rivers ; these would be the " rivers " of the treaty, the freedom of which for the purposes of commerce, was intended to be vested *for ever* in the sovereignty of Great Britain. From the above mentioned considerations it appears reasonable to suppose, that at the time the treaty was made neither Russian or Briton had the slightest idea that behind the continental coast that bounded the ocean, lay hidden away a " mainland coastline," and that consequently it was impossible either should have contemplated such a " coast " as the base of the ten league limitation.

" It is to be observed that the reasons that induced Russia to desire this *lisière* were purely commercial, and Count Nesselrode, writing to Count Lieven, pointed out in April, 1824, that if Prince of Wales Island remained Russian it would be useful to Russia ; otherwise the Russian establishment would be at the mercy of Great Britain." This expression of opinion by one Russian to another, has been successfully used by the United States, to obtain the surrender of British territory *now*, that it was quite unable to effect when the letters were written and when