

which, in the opinion of many persons' of great distinction and ability, were deemed contrary to the spirit and faith of those treaties.

Subsequent negotiations were entered upon, to ascertain and define the *actual* boundaries of the United States but without effect, except as to the boundaries of the river St. Croix, which were defined and settled in 1798, by commissioners appointed for that purpose;<sup>2</sup> yet notwithstanding the declaration of the commissioners, which unequivocally ascertained the river *St. Croix* to be the river mentioned in and intended by the treaty of 1783, and forming a part of the boundary therein described, it appears, that on the 12th of May, 1803, a convention<sup>3</sup> was entered into between his Majesty and the government of the United States, by which, amongst other things, the islands in *Passamaquoddy bay* were ceded to and declared to belong to them: that convention, fortunately for the interests of Great Britain, *was not ratified* by the American government, and it is hoped *Mr. Merry's* prediction, that this arrangement will be confirmed, whenever the matter of the boundary line between the two territories shall again be brought into discussion, will not be verified; though the article respecting the *Eastern* boundary on the side of New Brunswick, according to Mr. Merry's statement, did not occasion the refusal to ratify this *most improvident* concession.

The right to these islands, therefore, most indisputably continues in his Majesty; and for the honor of the nation, as well as the interests of the loyal inhabitants of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it is to be expected, that right will *never* be abandoned or conceded to the United States, who in their negotiation with the late ministry, appear to have succeeded in impressing on their minds

*ted States far from being hostile* was friendly, and that she made many discriminations in their favor. *France*, on the contrary, placed them on a better situation than her rival, *only in one solitary instance*, the unimportant article of *Fish Oil!!*"—Vide Mr. Justice Marshall's *Life of General Washington*.

<sup>1</sup> See the elaborate speech of Lord Auckland on the 7th March, 1783, on the bill for the provisional establishment and regulation of the trade, &c. between Great Britain and the United States. *Collection of debates on the Navigation System*, octavo edition, 1803, page 10.—Also Mr. Fox's speech in the same debate, and Lord Sheffield on American Commerce, sixth edition, page 3.

<sup>2</sup> See the declaration of the commissioners as to the river St. Croix, dated the 25th of October 1798.

<sup>3</sup> The editor has not been able to procure a copy of this convention, but see Mr. Merry's letter, in the address of the Council and House of Representatives of New Brunswick on this subject, in March 1807.