

extracts from the correspondence used for other purposes—that the negotiators understood the different meanings of the terms “coast of the continent” and “coast of the mainland” (*terre-ferme*) and used them as definite technical expressions. Immediately to the east of longitude 141° , where there are no islands bordering the coast, the coast of the continent is upon the mainland, and might be referred to by either term. But this does not sanction such an idea as appears to be expressed by Lord Alverstone in the words “an archipelago of islands off the coast, and some strip of land upon the coast itself,” because this implies that the term “coast of the continent” means explicitly the coast of the mainland, to the exclusion of any islands that, technically speaking, are part of the continent. It must have been with the intention of making a mistake of this kind impossible, that the opening sentence of Article III. says, the line of demarcation shall be drawn upon “the coast of the continent, *and the islands*”. Not that the terms are placed in opposition, but to prevent the possibility of the exclusion of the islands by a well known misuse of the term continent.

Mr. Geo. Canning had no such confusion in his mind when on Dec. 8, 1824, he sent the draft of the treaty to Mr. Stratford Canning, who in translating “coast of the continent,” as related to Portland Channel, into French, changed the term into *la côte de terre ferme*: that the correction was not in any form embodied in the treaty, may be explained by changes that were made in the details of the boundary. From a remark made by Mr. Dickinson, it appears the south-eastern boundary first proposed by Sir Chas. Bagot, was to run up Chatham Strait to the head of Lynn Canal.

The following are from the Attorney General's address :—

On October 21, 1823, Baron Tuvill wrote to Count Nesselrode :—“Supposing it to be impossible to succeed in extending the frontiers of Russia much further towards the south, it seems that it would be indispensable to have them fixed at least at the 55th degree of north latitude, or better still at the southern point of the Archipelago of the Prince of Wales and the Observatory Inlet, which are situated almost under that parallel.”. Sir Charles Bagot in March, 1824, writing from St Petersburg, expressed his regret that