

canals, reach Lake Huron; vessels of 250 tons, or steamers of the same draught, can go from thence to Lake Superior: so that the west shores of Lake Superior are more accessible now than Lake Ontario was thirty years since. There is nothing to prevent an uninterrupted line of communication being opened by water to the base of the rocky mountains.—See Syngé's "Great Britain one Empire."

APPENDIX (H).

Of all boundary lines an astronomical one is the most absurd. In App. A we have already shown the consequences of this absurdity at Red River; and without noticing similar consequences in the east, it may here be noted, as more relevant to the present subject that the present boundary, the 49° parallel north latitude does, so far as is known, give the heads of all streams falling into the Missouri from the north to Great Britain, as it does the head of Red River and the southern Saskatchewan, which flow into Lake Winnipeg, to the United States: it probably cuts the middle course of the Okanagan on the west of the Rocky Mountains in two places, thus separating its central from its upper and lower course, and gives the land to the south of the mouth of Frazer's River also to the United States.

The natural boundary to the east is the watershed between the affluents of the Missouri and the Saskatchewan, while on the west a conventional one was necessary. If any part of the valley of the Columbia were to be conceded to the United States, a worse line than the present could scarcely have been found. It appears to have been decided in consequence of the opinion of Captain Wilkes, of the American Navy, that *wheat will not grow to the north of parallel 49°*.

APPENDIX (I).

Sir John Richardson states that "the standard of exchange in all mercantile transactions with the natives is a beaver-skin, the relative value of which, as originally established by the traders, differs considerably from the present worth of the article it represents; but the Indians are averse to change. Three martens, eight musk-rats, or a single lynx or wolferine's skin, are equivalent to one beaver; a silver fox, white fox, or other, are reckoned two beavers; and a black fox or large black bear is equal to four: a mode of reckoning which has very little connection with the real value of those different furs in the European markets. Neither has any attention been paid to the original costs of European articles in fixing the tariff by which they are sold to the Indians.