

And whereas doubts have arisen what was the middle of the said river, lakes and water communications, and whether certain islands lying in the same, were within the dominions of His Britannic Majesty or of the United States; in order therefore finally to decide these doubts, they shall be referred to two Commissioners * * * to meet, in the first instance, at Albany, in the State of New York. * * *

The Commissioners, Peter B. Porter and Anthony Barclay, made their decision in 1822, as follows:—

The undersigned Commissioners * * * do decide and declare that the following described line, which is more clearly indicated on a series of maps accompanying the report, exhibiting correct surveys and delineations of all the rivers, lakes, water communications and islands, embraced by the 6th article of the Treaty of Ghent, by a black line, shaded on the British side with red, and on the American side with blue * * * that is to say:—

Beginning at a stone monument, erected by Andrew Elliot, Esq., in the year 1817, on the south bank or shore of the said River Iroquois or Cataract, (now called the St. Lawrence,) which monument bears south 74°-45' west and is eighteen hundred and forty yards distant from the stone church in the village of St. Regis, and indicates the point at which the 45th parallel of north latitude strikes the said river; thence, running north 35°-45' west into the river, on a line at right angles with the southern shore, to a point one hundred yards south of the opposite island called Cornwall Island; thence turning westerly and passing around the southern and western sides of said island, keeping one hundred yards distant therefrom, and following the curvatures of its shores to a point opposite to the north-west corner or angle of said island; thence, to and along the middle of the main river until it approaches the eastern extremity of Barnhart's Island; thence, northerly, along the channel which divides the last mentioned island from the Canada shore, keeping one hundred yards distant from the island, until it approaches Sheik's island; thence, along the middle of the strait which divides Barnhart and Sheik's islands to the channel called the Long Sault, which separates the two last mentioned islands from the Lower Long Sault Island; thence, westerly, crossing the centre of the last mentioned channel, until it approaches within one hundred yards of the north shore of the Lower Long Sault Island; thence up the north branch of the river, keeping to the north of and near the Lower Long Sault Island, and also north of and near the Upper Sault, sometimes called Baxter's Island, and south of the two small islands marked on the map A and B, to the western extremity of the Upper Sault, or Baxter's Island; thence, passing between the two islands called the Cats, to the middle of the river above; thence, along the middle of the river, keeping to the north of the small islands marked C and D; and north also of Chryater's Island, and of the small island next above it, marked E, until it approaches the north-east angle of Goose Neck Island; thence along the passage which divides the last mentioned island from the Canada shore, keeping one hundred yards from the island, to the upper end of the same; thence, south of and near the two small islands called the Nut Islands; thence north of and near the island marked F, and also of the island called Dry or Smuggler's Island; thence, passing between the islands marked G and H to the north of the island called Isle au Rapid Platt; thence along the north side of the last mentioned island, keeping one hundred yards from the shore to the upper end thereof; thence along the middle of the river, keeping to the south of and near the islands called Cousson (or Tussin) and Presque Isle; thence up the river, keeping north of and near the several Gallop Islands numbered on the map 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, and also of Tick, Tibbets's and Chimney Islands, and south of and near the Gallop Isles numbered 11, 12, and 13, and also of Duck, Drummond and Sheep Islands; thence, along the middle of the river, passing north of Island No. 14, south of 15 and 16, north of 17; south of 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28, and north of 26 and 27; thence, along the middle of the river, north of Gull Island, and of the islands No. 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, Bluff Island, and No. 39, 44 and 45, and to the south of No. 30, 31, 36, Grenadier Island, and No. 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47 and 48, until it approaches the east end of Well's Island; thence, to the north of Well's Island, and along the straight which divides it from Rowe's Island, keeping to the north of the small islands No. 51, 52, 54, 58, 59, and 61, and to the south of the small islands numbered and marked 49, 50, 53, 55, 57, 60 and X, until it approaches the north-east point of Grindstone Island; thence to the north of Grindstone Island, and keeping to the north also of the small islands No. 63, 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78, and to the south of No. 62, 64, 66, 69 and 71, until it approaches the southern part of Hickory Island; thence, passing to the south of Hickory Island, and of the two small islands lying near its southern extremity, numbered 79 and 80; thence to the south of Grand or Long Island, keeping near its southern shore and passing to the north of Carlton Island, until it arrives opposite to the south-western point of said Grand Island in Lake Ontario; thence, passing to the north of Grenadier, Fox, Stony, and the Gallop Islands in Lake Ontario, and to the south of and near the islands called the Ducks, to the middle of the said lake; thence, westerly, along the middle of said lake to a point opposite the mouth of the Niagara river; thence to and up the middle of the said river to the Great Falls; thence up the Falls, through the point of the Horse-Shoe, keeping to the west of Iris or Goat Island, and of the group of small islands at the head, and following the heads of the river so as to enter the straight between Navy and Grand Islands; thence along the middle of said straight to the head of Navy Island; thence, to the west and south of and near to Grand and Beaver Islands, and to the west of Strawberry, Squaw and Bird Islands to Lake Erie; thence, southerly and westerly, along the middle of Lake Erie, in a direction to enter the passage immediately south of Middle Island, being one of the easternmost of the group of islands lying in the western part of said lake; thence, along the said passage, proceeding to the north of Cunningham's Island, of the three Bars Islands, and of the Western Sister and to the south of the islands called the Hen and Chickens, and of the Eastern and Western Sisters; thence it approaches the Detroit river, in a direction to enter the channel which divides Bois-blanc and Sugar Islands; thence up the said channel to the west of Bois-blanc island, and to the east of Sugar, Fox, and Stony Islands, until it approaches Fighting or Great Turkey Island; thence along the western side and near the shore of the said last mentioned island to the middle of the river above the same; thence, along the middle of said river, keeping to the south-east of and near Hog Island, and to the north-west of and near the island called Isle à la Pêche to Lake St. Clair; thence, through the middle of said lake in a direction to enter that mouth or channel of the River St. Claire, which is usually denominated the Old Ship Channel; thence, along the middle of said channel, between Squirrel Island on the south-east and Herson's Island on the north-west, to the upper end of the last mentioned island, which is nearly opposite to Point au Chêne on the American shore; thence, along the middle of the River St. Clair, keeping to the west of and near the islands called Belle Rivière Isle and the Isle aux Cerfs to Lake Huron; thence through the middle of Lake Huron in a direction to enter the straight or passage between Drummond's Island on the west, and the little Manitou Island on the east; thence, through the middle of the passage which divides the two last mentioned islands, thence turning northerly and westerly around the eastern and northern shores of Drummond's Island, and proceeding in a direction to enter the passage between the Island of St. Joseph's and the American shore, passing to the north of the intermediate islands No. 61, 11, 10, 12, 9, 6, 4 and 2, and to the south of those No. 15, 13, 5 and 1.

Thence, up the last mentioned passage, keeping near to the Island of St. Joseph's, and passing to the north of the said east of Isle à la Crosse, and of the small islands numbered 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and to the south and west of these numbered 21, 22 and 23, until it strikes a line (drawn on the map with black ink, and shaded on one side of the point of intersection with blue, and on the other side with red,) passing across the river at the head of St. Joseph's Island, and at the foot of the Neebish rapids, which line denotes the termination of the boundary directed to be run by the 6th article of the Treaty of Ghent.

Art. VII. of the Treaty of Ghent contained an agreement that after performing their duties under the sixth Article the same Commissioners should proceed to determine the exact boundary "from the water communication between Lake Huron and Lake Superior" to the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods." The action taken under this article was incomplete, and was therefore supplemented by Art. II. of the Ashburton Treaty, as follows:—

It is moreover agreed that, from the place where the Joint Commissioners terminated their labors under the sixth article of the Treaty of Ghent, to wit: at a point in the Neebish Channel, near Muddy Lake, the line shall run into and along the ship channel between St. Joseph and St. Tammany Islands, to the division of the channel at or near the head of St. Joseph's Island; thence, turning eastwardly and northwardly around the lower end of St. George's or Sugar Island, and following the middle of the channel which divides St. George's from St. Joseph's Island; thence up the east Neebish channel, nearest to St. George's Island, through the middle of Lake George; thence west of Jonas' Island, into St. Mary's river, to a point in the middle of that river, about one mile above St. George's or Sugar Island, so as to appropriate and assign the said island to the United States; thence adopting the line traced on the maps by the Commissioners through the River St. Mary and Lake Superior, to a point north of Ile Royale, on said lake, one hundred yards to the north and east of Ile Chapeau, which last mentioned island lies near the north-eastern point of Ile Royale, where the line marked by the Commissioners terminates; and from the last mentioned point, south-westerly through the middle of the sound between Ile Royale and the north-western main land, to the mouth of Pigeon river, and up the said river to and through the north and south Fowl lakes, to the lakes of the height of land between Lake Superior