

that the navigation of the whole of the said channel and straits, south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, remain free and open to both parties.*

By this Treaty Great Britain surrendered her claim, which extended to Cape Oxford or Blanco, and included the whole valley of the Columbia River.

The exact boundary in the Straits is still under dispute; the Americans laying claim to the possession of St. Juan Island, important from its position, which commands the entrance to the Straits. A Commission is now sitting to decide the matter.

This is, however, not the last trouble we may expect. The United States, who have recently bought the Russian Territory, north-west of British Columbia, have bought with it another boundary dispute. The terms of that purchase not having been yet published, we cannot state how far the Russians have considered themselves justified in asserting their claims to certain possessions in the interior, which have not been acknowledged by Treaty with Britain, or regularly set off by survey.

The text of the Treaty with Russia, (1825), regulating the boundary, is as follows :—

Art. I. It is agreed that the respective subjects of the high contracting parties, shall not be troubled or molested in any part of the ocean commonly called the Pacific Ocean, either in navigating the same, in fishing therein, or in landing at such parts of the coast as shall not have been already occupied, in order to trade with the natives, under the restrictions and conditions specified in the following articles :

II. In order to prevent the right of navigating and fishing exercised upon the ocean by the subjects of the high contracting parties, from becoming the pretext for an illicit commerce, it is agreed that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty shall not land at any place where there may be a Russian establishment, without the permission of the Governor or Commandant; and, on the other hand, that Russian subjects shall not land, without permission, at any British establishment, on the north-west coast.

III. The line of demarcation between the possessions of the high contracting parties, upon the coast of the Continent and the Islands of America to the north-west, shall be drawn in the manner following :—

Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes, north latitude, and between the 131st and the 133rd degree of west longitude, (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland channel, as far as the point of the Continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from the last mentioned point, the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, (of the same meridian); and, finally, from the said point of intersection to said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions on the Continent of America to the north-west.

IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood :

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia.

2nd. That wherever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is also to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom.

V. It is moreover agreed that no establishment shall be formed by either of the two parties within the limits assigned by the two preceding articles to the possessions of the other. * * *

VI. It is understood that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, from whatever quarter they may arrive, whether from the ocean, or from the interior of the continent, shall forever enjoy the right of navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams which, in their course towards the Pacific Ocean, may cross the line of demarcation upon the line of coast described in Article III. of the present convention.

IX. The above mentioned liberty of commerce shall not apply to the trade in spirituous liquors, in fire arms, or other arms, gunpowder, or other warlike stores; the high contracting parties reciprocally engaging not to permit the above mentioned articles to be sold or delivered in any manner whatever to the natives of the country.

X. Every British or Russian vessel navigating the Pacific Ocean, which may be compelled by storms or by accident, to take shelter in the ports of the respective parties shall be at liberty to refit therein, to provide itself with all necessary stores and to put to sea again, without paying any other than port and lighthouse dues, which shall be the same as those paid by national vessels. * * *

The various Provinces and Colonies into which British America is divided are :—

The Dominion of Canada, comprising the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The colonies of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. And the unorganized territory occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company. The whole, it is to be hoped, soon to be included in Canada.

Ontario and Quebec—first called the Province of Quebec—were divided by the proclamation of General Sir Alured Clarke, Nov. 18th 1791, into Upper and Lower Canada. That proclamation, accordingly fixes the line dividing them.

Ontario lies altogether on the North side of the St. Lawrence—its boundaries West and North not being defined.

Quebec, which sits astride on the Lower St. Lawrence, is undefined to the North.

The Imperial Act 14th and 15th Vic. Ch. 63, defines the boundary between Quebec and New Brunswick.

Nova Scotia is a peninsula connected with New Brunswick by a low sandy isthmus. It is about 330 miles long, and about 100 miles broad at its widest. The Island of Cape Breton is now a part of Nova Scotia. The coast of Nova Scotia is everywhere indented with arms of the sea, and no part of it is more than 20 miles from salt water.

Prince Edward Island is 140 miles long and 34 in its greatest breadth. Its coasts are like those of Nova Scotia, much indented by bays, and no part is more than 10 miles from the sea.

The greatest length of Newfoundland is from North to South, 350 miles; average breadth, 130.

Thus the area of the Dominion now is :—

Ontario (estimated).....	121,260 square miles.
Quebec (do).....	210,020 do
New Brunswick.....	27,105 do
Nova Scotia.....	18,660 do

Total.....377,045 square miles.

If to this we add the area of Prince Edward Island, 2,100 square miles; Newfoundland, 40,200 square miles; British Columbia, 220,000 square miles (including Vancouver's Island, 20,000); and Labrador, the Hudson's Bay and North-West Territories, say 2,750,000 square miles, we shall have a total for British America of 3,389,345 square miles.

*All the navigable channels of the St. Lawrence, of the Detroit, of the St. Clair, and other rivers forming the boundary, or cut by it, are expressly made free to both parties.