

to a foreign government—to sell him, might well be questioned, as being inconsistent with the spirit of our free institutions. But be this as it may, Maine will never concede the principle that the President and two-thirds of the Senate can transfer its territory, much less its citizens, without its permission given by its constitutional organs.

Your committee, however, deem it but fair to admit that they have discovered no inclination in the General Government or any department of it to assume this power. On the contrary, the President has repeatedly declined the adoption of a conventional line deviating from the Treaty of 1783—upon the express ground, that it could not be done without the consent of Maine.

It is due nevertheless to the State of Maine to say that the Committee have no evidence that any conventional line has been proposed to them for their consent. It indeed appears that the consent of Maine had not been given to the adoption of any other boundary than that prescribed by the Treaty of 1783, up to the 29th February, 1836, and we are well assured that no proposition for a different boundary has since that time been made to any department of the government of this State.

The President of the United States on the 15th June last communicated to the Senate in compliance with their resolution a copy of the correspondence relative to the N. E. Boundary. This correspondence embraced a period from the 21st July 1832, to the 5th March 1836.

The opinion and advice of the King of the Netherlands to whom the controversy was referred, by the provisions of the Treaty of Ghent was made on the 10th January, 1831, and of the three questions submitted, viz: The northwestern boundary—the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river and the 45th parallel of latitude, he seems to have determined but one. He did decide that the source of the stream running into and through Connecticut Lake is the true N. W. head of that river, as intended by the Treaty of 1783—and as to the rest, he advises that it will be convenient (*il convindra*) to adopt the “Thalweg” the deepest channel of the St. John’s and St. Francis from the north line; and that the 45th degree is to be measured in order to mark out the boundary to the St. Lawrence, with a deviation so as to include Rouse’s Point within the United States. As to the convenience of establishing the St. John’s and St. Francis as to the northern boundary of Maine, we have only to observe that however “convenient” it may be to Great Britain to obtain so large a portion of our territory and waters, it would certainly be very inconvenient to us, and inasmuch as we are probably capable of judging of our own “convenience” and have never solicited the advice of any one on this point, it is scarcely to be expected that we shall be advised to adopt a line, so preposterous and injurious.

It was in this view and in strict conformity with the constitution conferring the Treaty Power, that the President on the 7th December,