

Act of
Parliament

to fix on any particular river as a boundary between the two nations.

§. 3. The Agent for His Majesty, has in support of his claim, mentioned, that by a certain Act of Parliament made in the year 1775, it is enacted, that the River which emptieth itself into Papa-maquody Bay on the western side, shall be held and deemed for all purposes in that act contained, to be the Boundary between the province of Massachusetts Bay and Nova Scotia.

The Agent for the United States, is not fortunate enough at present, to comprehend the use which the Agent for His Majesty intends to make of that act. — Should he consider it as an attempt to fix and determine the bounds of the province of Massachusetts, The answer is, That the bounds being given by Charter, the Parliament had no authority to take away a part of

its territory or jurisdiction. This was frequently conceded in this very case, or in this very territory, when the Crown offered to compromise for a relinquishment of the jurisdiction of the province, over the lands east of Sagadahock.

The Line was there, or was not there, anterior to that act of Parliament, and the act being at most but a declaration of one party, leaves the Boundary where it was before. — Another answer to that act, is, that the Parliament passed it with an evident conviction that the boundary was not settled, and that they had no right to settle it, in that mode, For they say in the act that the River therein described shall be held and deemed the boundary between the two provinces for all the purposes in that act mentioned. — If the Boundary was known and fixed before, there could be no necessity of an act of Parliament.

on