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It was but twelve years from that time, before the Province of Massachusetts, relinquished its claim ~~by~~ to Nova Scotia. From that time to the year 1763, the Indian Wars were incessant, and it was impossible within that period to investigate the boundary. It was unnecessary to do it. Both Provinces were under one Sovereign, and the whole country a wilderness. — neither Province had power to do it alone; nor could either afford the expence of it. —

Under these circumstances the means, by which the Saint Croix became a boundary of the Province of Massachusetts were forgotten, & the Gentlemen who were called upon to attend to the business, in, & after the year 1763, did not take the pains to read the charter, or search the Records. — We therefore find this expression in the Report of Bowdoin, Brattle, & Hubbard, three of the Council in the year 1771. —

"When we consider these things, & many more we could mention, it is plain to us, that the river Saint Croix — which we call by that name, and which is East of Passamaquoddy, is the true river Saint Croix, & the Eastern boundary of this Province, as mentioned in the Charter."

It was indeed a mistake, to suppose that any river besides the Saint Lawrence, was mentioned in the Charter as a boundary; but still it is very clear, that these men reported that a river called the Magaquadavie, & on the East side of Passamaquoddy, was the Saint Croix, which was considered as the boundary of the Province. This

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This report was a document in the hands of the American Commissioners, who formed the Treaty of Peace, and a more direct guide to the Magaquadavie as the Saint Croix could not have been furnished. —

The Agent for his majesty, has seen fit to suggest, that these Commissioners were never down to the bay of Passamaquoddy. — But if we believe them, there cannot be a doubt, but that they were there: for in the Report, they expressly say, "The Gentleman who went down with us preached twice a day, the two Sabbaths we were at Machias &c — They gave an account of the number of children he baptised in the Eastern Country — report on the quality of the Soil, the number and business of the Inhabitants, and say — "Whilst we were at Gouldsborough, Captain Smith in a Ship from Bristol in England came there". The report is on the Table. How vain is it then for the Agent for his majesty to raise suggestions against direct & positive proof. —

The error suggested in this procedure is — that they mention the river called the Magaquadavie as the Charter boundary of the Province. Their not repairing to the line, could be no reason for their not reading or attending to the Charter. They could have read that & the extant records on the subject, as well at Boston, as at Saint Croix: and if they had done it, they would not have made use of the mistaken mode of expression. But it is quite clear that they were at Passamaquoddy.

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