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[Whole No. 275.]

## SECRETARY'S REPORT,

(CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST.)

THE territory of the United States north-west of the Ohio, is bounded on the south by that river, on the east, by Pennsylvania, on the north and west, by the lines which divide the United States from the dominions of Great-Britain and Spain.

The part of this territory occupied by Indians, is north and west of the following lines, established with the Shawanese, Delaware, Chippawas, and Ottawas by the treaty of Fort M'Intosh, and with the Shawanese, by that of the Great Miami, to wit: beginning at the mouth of the Cayahoga, and running up the river to the portage, between that and the Tuscaroras branch of the Muskingum, then down the said branch to the forks, at the crossing place above Fort Lawrence, then westwardly, towards the portage of the Big Miami, to the main branch of that river, then down the Miami to the fork of that river next below the old fort, which was taken by the French in 1752; thence due west to the river De la Panse, and down that river to the Wabash. So far the lines are precisely defined, and the whole country southward of these lines, and eastward of the Wabash cleared of the claims of those Indians, as it is also of those of the Potawatimias, and Sacs, by the treaty of Muskingum. How far on the other side of the Wabash, the southern boundary of the Indians has been defined, we know not. It is only understood in general, that their title to the lower country, between that river and the Illinois, has been formerly extinguished by the French, while in their possession. As to that country then, and what lies still beyond the Illinois, it would seem expedient that nothing be done, until a fair ascertainment of boundary can take place, by mutual consent, between us and the Indians interested.

The country within the Wabash, the Indian line before described, the Pennsylvania line, and the Ohio, contains, on a loose estimate, about 55,000 square miles, or 35 millions of acres.

During the British government, great numbers of persons had formed themselves in companies under different names, such as the Ohio, the Wabash, the Illinois, the Mississippi, or Vandalia companies, and had covered with their applications, a great part of their territory. Some of them had obtained orders on certain conditions, which, having never been fulfilled, their titles were never completed by grants. Others were only in a state of negotiation, when the British authority was discontinued. Some of these claims being already under a special reference by order of Congress, and all of them probably falling under the operation of the same principles, they will not be noticed in the present report.

The claims of citizens to be here stated will be,

I. Those reserved to the States by their deeds of cession.

II. Those which have arisen under the government of the United States themselves.

Under the first head presents itself the tract of country from the completion of the 41st degree, to 42 deg. 2 min. of north latitude, and extending from the Pennsylvania line before mentioned, 120 miles westward, not mentioned in the deed of Connecticut, while all the country westward thereof, was mentioned to be ceded; about two and a half millions of acres of this may perhaps be without the Indian lines before mentioned.

2. A reservation in the deed of Virginia, of the possessions and titles of the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskias, St. Vincennes, and the neighboring villages, who had professed themselves citizens of Virginia, which rights have been settled by an act of the last session of Congress, entitled, "An act for granting lands to the inhabitants and settlers at Vincennes and the Illinois country, in the territory north-west of the Ohio, and for confirming them in their possessions." These lands are in the neighborhood of the several villages.

3. A reservation in the same deed, of a quantity, not exceeding 150,000 acres of land for General George Rogers Clarke, and the officers and soldiers of his regiment, who were at the reduction of Kaskaskias, and St. Vincennes, to be laid off in such place on the northwest side of the Ohio, as a majority of the officers should choose. They chose they should be laid off on the river adjacent to the rapids, which accordingly has been done.

4. A reservation in the same deed, of lands between the Sciota and Little Miami, to make up to the Virginia troops on continental establishment, the quantity which the good lands, in their southern allotment, might fall short of the bounties given them by the laws of that State. By a statement of the 16th Sept. 1788, it appears, that 724,045  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres had been surveyed for them on the south eastern side of the Ohio; that 1,395,385  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres had been surveyed on the northwestern side; that warrants for 649,649 acres more, to be laid off on the same side of the river, were in the hands of the surveyor, and it was supposed there might still be some few warrants not yet presented; so that this reservation may be stated at 2,045,034  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, or perhaps some small matter more.

II. The claims of individual citizens, derived from the United States themselves, are the following:

1. Those of the continental army, founded on the resolutions of Congress of Sept. 16, 1776, August 12, and Sept. 30, 1780, and fixed by the ordinance of May 20, 1785. The resolution of October 22, 1787, and the supplementary ordinance of July 9, 1788, in the seven ranges of townships, beginning at a point on the Ohio, due north from the western termination of a line then lately run, as the southern boundary of Pennsylvania: or in a second tract of a million of acres, bounded east, by the 7th range of the said townships, south by the lands of Cutler and Sargent; north, by an extension of the northern boundary of the said townships; and going towards the west so far as to include the above quantity, or, lastly, in a third tract of country, beginning at the mouth of the Ohio, and running up the river Mississippi to the river Au Vause, thence up the same till it meets a well line from the mouth of the little Wabash; thence along that line to the Great Wabash; thence down the same and the Ohio, to the beginning. The sum total of the said military claims is 1,851,800 acres.

2. Those of the individuals who made purchases of land at New-York, within the said seven ranges of townships, according to the resolutions of Congress of April 21st, 1787, and the supplementary ordinance of July 9, 1788, which claims amount to 150,806 acres.

3. The purchase of one million and a half acres of land by Cutler and Sargent, on behalf of certain individuals, associated under the name of the Ohio Company. This begins where the Ohio is intersected by the western boundary of the 7th range of townships, and runs due north on that boundary 1306 chains and 25 links; thence due west to the western boundary of the 17th range of townships; thence due south to the Ohio, and up that river to the beginning; the whole area containing 1,781,760 acres of

land, whereof 281,760 acres, consisting of various lots and townships, are reserved to the United States.

4. The purchase by the same Cutler and Sargent on behalf also of themselves and others: This begins at the northeastern angle of the tract of their purchase before described, and runs due north to the northern boundary of the 10th township from the Ohio; thence due west, to the Scioto; thence down the same, and up the Ohio to the southwestern angle of the said purchase before described, and along the western and northern boundaries thereof to the beginning; the whole area containing 4,901,480 acres of land, out of which, however, five lots, to wit, No. 3, 11, 16, 26, and 29 of every township, of six miles square, are retained by the United States, and out of the whole are retained the three townships of Gnadenhuten, Schoenbrun, and Salem; and certain lands around them, as will be hereafter mentioned.

5. The purchase of John Cleves Symmes, bounded on the west by the Great Miami; on the south by the Ohio; on the east by a line which is to begin on the bank of the Ohio, 20 miles from the mouth of the great Miami, as measured along the several courses of the Ohio, and to run parallel with the general course of the said Great Miami; and on the north by an east and west line, so run as to include a million of acres in the whole area, whereof five lots, numbered as before mentioned, are reserved out of every township by the United States.

It is suggested that this purchaser, under colour of a first and larger proportion to the board of treasury, which was never closed (but pending that proposition) sold sundry parcels of land, between his eastern boundary before mentioned, and the Little Miami; and that the purchasers have settled thereon. If these suggestions prove true, the settlers will, perhaps, be thought to merit the favor of the legislature, as purchasers for valuable consideration, and without notice of the defect of title.

The contracts for lands, which were at one time under consideration with Messrs. Flint and Parker, and with Colonel Morgan, were never so far prosecuted as to bring either party under any obligation. All proceedings thereon were discontinued at a very early stage, and it is supposed that no further views exist with any other party. These, therefore, are not to be enumerated among existing claims.

6. Three townships were reserved by the ordinance of May 20, 1785, adjacent to Lake Erie, for refugees from Canada and Nova-Scotia, and for other purposes according to resolutions of Congress, made or to be made on that subject. These would of course contain 63,120 acres.

7. The same ordinance of May 20th, 1785, appropriated the three towns of Gnadenhuten, Schoenbrun, and Salem, on the Muskingum, for the christian Indians formerly settled there, or the remains of that society, with the grounds round about them, and the quantity of the said circumjacent grounds, for each of the said towns, was determined by the resolution of Congress of September 3d, 1788, to be so much as, with the plat of its respective town, would make up 4000 acres; so that three towns and their circumjacent lands were to amount to 12,000 acres. This reservation was accordingly made out of the large purchase of Cutler and Sargent, which comprehended them. The Indians, however, for whom the reservation was made, have chosen to emigrate beyond the limits of the United States, so that the lands reserved for them, still remain to the United States.

On the whole, it appears that the United States may rightfully dispose of the lands between the Wabash, and the Ohio, Pennsylvania, the forty-first parallel of latitude, and the Indian lines described in the treaties of the Great Miami, and Fort M'Intosh, with exceptions only of the rights saved by the deed of cession of Virg. and of all rights legally derived from the government of the United States, and supposing the part south of the Indian lines, to contain as before conjectured about 35 millions of acres, and that the claims of citizens before enumerated may amount to between thirteen and fourteen millions, there remain at the disposal of the United States upwards of twenty-one millions of acres, in this northwestern quarter.

And though the want of actual surveys of some parts, and of a general delineation of the whole on paper, so as to exhibit to the eye the locations, forms, and relative positions of the rights before described, may prevent our forming a well defined idea of them at this distance, yet, on the spot these difficulties exist but in a small degree. The individuals there employed in the details of buying, selling and locating, possess local informations of the parts which concern them, so as to be able to keep clear of each others rights; or, if in some instances a conflict of claims should arise, from any want of certainty in their definition, a local judge will doubtless be provided to decide them without delay, at least provisionally. Time, instead of clearing up these uncertainties, will cloud them the more, by the death or removal of witnesses, the disappearance of lines and marks, change of parties, and other casualties.

TH. JEFFERSON, Sec'y of State.

Nov. 8, 1791.

[The following letters accompanied the message of the 12th inst. from the President of the United States, to Congress, and were omitted in the last Gazette for want of room.]

Fort-Washington, Oct. 6, 1791.

SIR,

I HAVE now the satisfaction to inform you that the army moved from Fort Hamilton, the name I have given to the fort on the Miami, on the 4th at eight in the morning, under the command of General Butler. The order of march and encampment I had regulated before, and on the 3d returned to this place to get up the militia. They marched yesterday, and consist of but about 300 men, as you will see by the enclosed abstract of the muster. I have reason to believe, however, that at least an equal number will be up here by the 10th, and I have left orders for their following us. The monthly return should have accompanied this letter, but it was not ready when I left camp, and has not been forwarded since. I have hitherto found it impossible to reduce the officers commanding corps to punctuality with respect to their returns, but they are mending.

Our numbers, after deducting the garrisons of this place and Fort-Hamilton, are about two thousand, exclusive of the militia. I trust I shall find them sufficient; and should the rest of the militia come on, it will make the matter pretty certain. But the season is now so far advanced, that I fear the intermediate posts, which would indeed have been highly necessary, it will be impossible to establish: in that, however, I must be governed by circumstances, of which I will take care that you shall be apprized in due time. Should the enemy come to meet us, which seems to be expected, and be discomfited, there will be no difficulties; but if they expect us at the Miami villages, the business will wear another face, and the intermediate posts become more essential.

I am this moment setting out for the army, which I hope to overtake to-morrow evening, and will write to you again as soon after as may be.

With great regard and respect,

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your very humble servant,

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

The Hon. Maj. Gen. Knox,  
Secretary of War.

Camp, 81 miles advanced of Fort-Washington,  
Nov. 1, 1789.

SIR,

SINCE I had the honor to write to you on the 21st ult. nothing very material has happened, and indeed I am at present so unwell (and have been so for some time past) that I could ill detail it, if it had happened,—not that that space of time has been entirely barren of incidents; but as few of them have been of the agreeable kind, I beg you to accept a sort of journal account of them, which will be the easiest for me.

On the 22d, the indisposition that had hung about me for some time, sometimes appearing as a bilious cholic, and sometimes as a rheumatic asthma, to my great satisfaction changed to the gout in the left arm and hand, leaving the breast and stomach perfectly relieved, and the cough which had been excessive, entirely gone. This day Mr. Ellis, with sixty militia from Kentucky, joined the army, and brought up a quantity of flour and beef. 23d, two men, taken in the act of deserting to the enemy, and one for shooting another soldier and threatening to kill an officer, were hanged upon the grand parade, the whole army being drawn out. Since the army have halted, the country around this and ahead for fifteen miles has been well examined: it is a country, which had we arrived a month sooner in it; and with three times the number of animals, they would have been all fat now. 24th, named the fort Jefferson (it lies in lat. 40. 4. 22. N.) and marched, the same Indian path serving to conduct us about six miles, and encamped on good ground and an excellent position—a rivulet in front, and a very large prairie, which would at the proper season afford forage for a thousand horses, on the left. So ill this day that I had much difficulty in keeping with the army. 25th, very hard rains last night—obliged to halt today, on account of provisions; for though the soldiers may be kept pretty easily in camp under the expectation of provisions arriving, they cannot bear to march in advance, and take none along with them. Received a letter from Mr. Hodgdon, by express; 13000 cwt. of flour will arrive on the 27th. 26th, a party of militia sent to reconnoitre, fell in with five Indians, and suffered them to slip through their fingers: in their camp, articles to the value of twenty-two dollars were found and divided. The Virginia battalion is melting down very fast; notwithstanding the promises of the men to the officers, thirteen have been discharged by Col. Dark to-day. 27th, gave orders for insisting the levies, with the condition of serving out their time in their present corps. Pyamingo, arrived in camp with his warriors: I was so unwell, could only see him and bid him welcome, but entered on no business. Considerable dissatisfaction among the levies about their enlistments. 28th, some clothing sent for to Fort-Washington for the recruits arrived, was begun to be distributed, and will have a good effect; but the insisting the levies does not meet with the encouragement that might have been expected: it is not openly complained of by the officers, but it is certainly privately by some of high rank, and the measure of tempting them with warm clothing condemned. Mr. Hodgdon