

fort and village along the river of that name, to Lake Erie; leaving in that case the settlement of Detroit, and all the territory north of the rivers Miami and St. Joseph's between the Lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Michigan, to form hereafter another state equally large, compact, and water-bounded."

Thus did Washington, with that clear-headedness and far-sightedness which caused him, in practical matters like this, to outrank most Americans of his day, roughly map



out the present states of Ohio and Michigan; and, five weeks later, on the 15th of October, 1783, congress adopted this second suggestion almost literally, in establishing a region for colonization north of the Ohio, into which no red man was thereafter to be allowed a foothold—if the law could stop him.<sup>1</sup>

Early in March, 1784, congress instructed a committee of which Thomas Jefferson was chairman, to fashion a plan of government for the entire Northwest, — or, as it was then called, the Western Territory, — which had now become public domain through the surrender of the land claims of those states which had stoutly held that they owned everything west of their coast lines, as far as the Pacific ocean.<sup>2</sup> To Jefferson is to be given the credit for drafting the report of this committee, which was first taken up by congress on the 19th of April, and adopted on the 23d. after some

<sup>1</sup> *Secret Journals of Congress*, i, p. 258. Duane was chairman of the committee reporting these resolutions.

<sup>2</sup> *Randall's Life of Jefferson*, i, p. 397.