

embraced in this great tract was, in great part, the Virginia cession, made in 1784; to the north of that lay the strip ceded by Connecticut in 1786 and 1800; further north, the Massachusetts cession of 1785; while the territory north of latitude  $43^{\circ} 43' 12''$  had been acquired from Great Britain in 1783.<sup>1</sup>

Article V. of the ordinance was as follows: "There shall be formed in the said territory not less than three nor more than five states; and the boundaries of the states, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession and consent to the same," shall become fixed and established as follows, to-wit: The western state, in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents [Vincennes, Indiana], due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle state shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern state shall be bounded by the last-mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: *Provided, however,* And it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three states shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies *north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan.* And whenever any of the said states shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such state shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original states, in all respects whatever."

In order to give the ordinance an air of stability, it was solemnly provided, in section 14 of the preamble, that: "The following articles shall be considered as articles of

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<sup>1</sup> See map in McMaster's *Hist. People U. S.*, ii.

<sup>2</sup> Which she did in 1788.