

fourth and fifth states by the ordinance; and Virginia, whose consent, as the chief land-giver, had been deemed necessary to the legalizing of that document, was impertuned by Governor Mason to intercede in behalf of the peninsula Territory. But, although the officials of the Old Dominion were in accord with the movement, it failed to produce any effect on congress, for the political sympathy of the actual state of Ohio was more important to the dominant party, just then, than the possible good-will of the projected state of Michigan. Without waiting for an enabling act, a convention held at Detroit in May and June, 1835, adopted a state constitution for submission to congress, demanding entry into the Union, "in conformity to the fifth article of the ordinance" of '1787 — of course the boundaries sought being those established by the article in question. That summer, there were popular disturbances in the disputed territory, and some gunpowder harmlessly wasted. In December, President Jackson laid the matter before congress in a special message. Congress quietly determined to "arbitrate" the quarrel by giving to Ohio the disputed tract, and offering Michigan,¹ by way of partial recompense, the whole of what is to day her upper peninsula. Michigan did not want the supposedly barren and worthless country to her northwest, protested long and loud against what she deemed to be an outrage, declared that she had no community of interest with the north peninsula, and was separated from it by insurmountable natural barriers for one-half of the year, while it rightfully belonged to the fifth state, to be formed out of the Northwest Territory. But congress persisted in making this settlement of the quarrel one of the conditions precedent to the admission of Michigan into the Union. In September, 1836, a state convention, called for the sole purpose of deciding the question, rejected the proposition on the ground that congress had no right to annex such a condition, according to the terms of the ordinance; a second convention, however, approved of it on the 15th of December following, and congress at

¹ Act approved June 15, 1836.