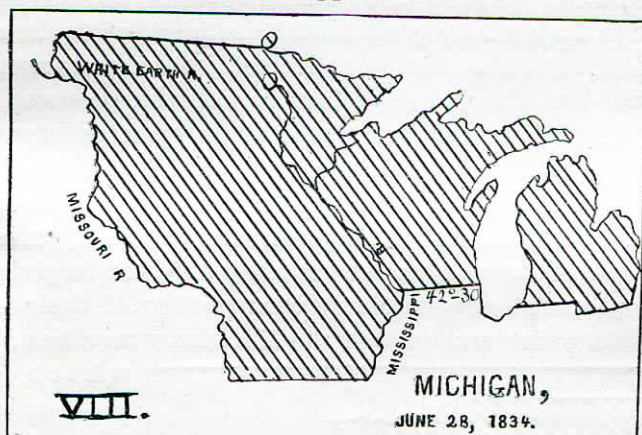


Territory now extended, therefore, from Detroit westward to eighty-five miles northwest of the site of the present city of Bismarck, Dakota.

The people west of Lake Michigan had long been desirous of having a territorial government of their own. The seat of government of Michigan Territory was at Detroit, six hundred miles from the centre of settlement west of the lake, and nearly inaccessible therefrom during one-half of the year; the laws of Michigan were practically dead-letters among them; the civil machinery, this side of the lake, was chiefly conspicuous for its absence, and there were commercial as well as sectional and political jealousies between the people on either side of the great inland sea. As early as 1824, Judge James Duane Doty had interested Senator Thomas H. Benton in a scheme to get a bill through congress erecting "the Territory of Chippewau." The bill<sup>1</sup> was drawn



by Judge Doty and forwarded to Senator Benton in November of that year, together with a petition for its passage signed by the inhabitants of the proposed Territory. It is interesting to note the ideas prevalent among them at that time concerning the proper limits of what is now Wisconsin. The boundaries sought by the Doty bill, were:

[City] to the Missouri river; on the southwest and west by the Missouri river and the White Earth river, falling into the same; and on the north by the northern boundary of the United States, shall be, and hereby is, for the purpose of temporary government, attached to and made part of the Territory of Michigan."

<sup>1</sup> Doty MSS., in the possession of the Society.