

of Missouri; and thence with the boundaries of the states of Missouri and Illinois, as already fixed by acts of congress."

It was Hobson's choice, with both Wisconsin and Michigan. Congress assumed the right to govern and divide the territory in the Northwest to suit itself, regardless of the solemn compact of 1787, and there seemed nothing to do but submit. The future proved that Michigan had been given more than an equivalent in the great northern peninsula, for the narrow belt of country along the Ohio border, and had no reason to grumble, while Wisconsin lost in the transaction a tract of territory which belongs to her geographically, and which had always been designed for her in the preliminary deliberations concerning the political division of the Northwest. But while the consent of Michigan had been formally asked and reluctantly given to this violation of the great ordinance, that of Wisconsin was never sought for, either as to her northeastern or southern boundary.

By act of June 12, 1838, congress still further contracted the limits of Wisconsin by creating from its trans-Mississippi tract¹ the Territory of Iowa. This, however, was in accordance with the original design when the country beyond the Mississippi was attached to Michigan Territory for purposes of temporary government, so no objection was entertained to this arrangement on the part of Wisconsin. The establishment of Iowa had reduced Wisconsin to her present limits, except that she still held, as her western

¹The language of the clause is as follows: "All that part of the present Territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river and west of the line drawn due north from the headwaters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial line" [international boundary]. By a memorial to congress of the Wisconsin Territorial legislature, approved January 14, 1841 (*Senate Docs.*, No. 171, 26th Cong., 2d sess., vol. iv.), it will be seen that under this act of June 12, 1838, there was some ambiguity as to the western boundary description; the Wisconsin memorialists held that "the effect of the act confined the western boundary-line of Wisconsin to the edge of the waters of the Mississippi river, and took away the jurisdiction of Wisconsin over any part or portion of the Mississippi, either concurrent or otherwise." Congress finally changed the phraseology, so that Wisconsin's western boundary became "the center of the main channel of that river."