

the southern bounds of her trans-Mississippi tract,¹ but as that country was merely attached to Wisconsin for temporary purposes and was afterwards absorbed by Iowa, the particulars of the dispute are not now pertinent. Neither is the animated disturbance created by the Wisconsin legislature in 1843-44² over the terms of the international boundary treaty of 1842, of importance at this day; for the strip of country northwest of Lake Superior, which Wisconsin claimed had been wrongfully encroached upon to the extent of ten thousand square miles by Great Britain, became the property of Minnesota, who fell heir to the international dispute when Wisconsin became a state.

We will now, at the risk of occasional repetition of facts already stated in this introduction, follow the fortunes, in some detail, of the northeastern, northwestern and southern boundaries of the Badger state, each of which has an interesting and instructive history.

THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.

The upper peninsula of Michigan is three hundred and eighteen miles in length from east to west, and varies from thirty to one hundred and sixty-four miles in width from north to south. In its rugged hills to the north and west there are practically inexhaustible stores of copper and iron, while in the eastern counties agriculture is successfully carried on; it commands the straits of Mackinaw and the outlets of Lakes Superior and Michigan, while numerous harbors line its coasts, and the fisheries off its shores are a never-failing source of revenue. As early as 1660 the Jesuits discovered copper mines upon its northwest coast, and established the fact that the natives had long before had workings there. In 1771 an English mining company established a plant on Ontonagon river, but was unsuccessful,

¹ For details, see message of Governor Dodge, November 7, 1837, *House Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*

² For details, see *Council Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*, 1843 and 1844.