

on geographical considerations alone. This brought out from Governor Cass of Michigan, an expostulatory message to his territorial council, dated January 5, 1831, in which he said:

“If we have any security for the political privileges we enjoy or expect to enjoy, we have the same security, and that is, the faith of the United States, for the integrity of the territorial boundaries established by that act [ordinance of 1787]. A line drawn through the middle of Lake Michigan to its northern extreme, and thence due north to Lake Superior, is our western boundary. * * * To the country west of that line we have no claim.”

In 1832 the house committee on territories reported in favor of naming the proposed Territory Wisconsin, and of changing its northeast boundary line to the Mackinaw meridian, “the retention of which is more in consonance with the ordinance of 1787.”

On the 7th of January, 1833, the legislative council of Michigan addressed a memorial to congress, insisting on the right of that Territory to the Mackinaw line, as recommended by the committee.

The Michigan council adopted another memorial to congress, December 12, 1834, formally praying for the erection of the Territory of Wisconsin out of that portion of Michigan Territory “lying west of a line drawn through the middle of Lake Michigan to the northern extremity [Mackinaw] and thence north to the boundary line of the United States.”¹

December 11, 1834, a bill to establish the northern boundary of Ohio was referred to the judiciary committee of the United States senate, of which William C. Preston of South Carolina was a member. Both Ohio and Michigan being represented before the committee by counsel, elaborate arguments were made on the proper interpretation of the fifth article of the ordinance of 1787, particularly as to the

¹The memorialists estimated that in the country between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers there were, at that time, from five thousand to eight thousand souls, and that in the country between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi there were from twelve thousand to fifteen thousand souls.