

ment to make the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary a line running "from the middle of Green bay to the head of Chocolate river, thence down said river to Lake Superior, thence due north to the territorial line." Had this amendment been adopted, Wisconsin would have gained the greater part of the upper peninsula. But it was defeated, and the senate bill left intact, the act being approved as it came from committee, April 20, 1833.

The charge was freely made at the time that the northern peninsula was given to Michigan as a compensation for the loss on her southern border. But Senator (afterwards President) James Buchanan, a member of the senate judiciary committee, made a speech<sup>1</sup> in which he vehemently denied that Michigan had favored this barter, and claimed that it was made "solely upon considerations of public policy." He pointed out that the legislature of Michigan thus expostulated with the senate committee:

"Its limits [those of Michigan] are fixed and immutable, without the consent of the people. They have never claimed anything beyond those limits; they have never transcended them; they have, in all their proceedings, adhered to them with punctilious fidelity. A due regard to the 'natural boundaries' and to the rights, political and territorial, of another people, whom she hopes at an early day to hail as another accession to this great confederacy of states, would forbid her to accept any acquisition of territory north and west of her, as a consideration for the serious loss alluded to."

To be sure, it was not a bargain. We have ample evidence of that, in the repeated official protests of Michigan at this unwarranted disposition of territory. But the politicians in congress were right when they predicted that Michigan would ultimately become more than reconciled to the transfer and tenaciously cling to her Lake Superior country as perhaps her richest possession. Though not a bargain, it was a magnificent recompense.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix to *Cong. Globe*, 24th Cong., 1st sess., p. 308.

<sup>2</sup> Michigan appears to have been well rewarded for her few lost townships on the Ohio border. She obtained, in addition to the northern peninsula, "land for the erection of her public buildings; all the salt