

“It is ascertained that a part of the western boundary of the state of Michigan, as prescribed by the act of congress of the 15th of June, 1836, is an impracticable line, there being no natural boundary as therein described. The Lake of the Desert does not discharge its waters into the Montreal river. It having, therefore, become necessary to designate a new line, I avail myself of the occasion to present the subject to the notice of the assembly, that such measures as are proper may be adopted to procure the recognition by the government of the United States of the boundary which was established between Michigan and Wiskonsan in the year 1805. * * * It is manifest from the provisions of the ordinance [of 1787] that they [the people on the northern peninsula living west of the Mackinaw meridian] belong to the fifth state to be formed in the Northwest Territory, and that Michigan, as a ‘state’ in the Union, has no jurisdiction over them. This was the doctrine of Michigan until she was admitted, and I think it was correct.”

The governor’s message was referred to the committee on territorial affairs, which reported resolutions in accordance with the position therein maintained, and the territorial delegate, Henry Dodge, was requested to use his influence in the reestablishment of the original boundary. The resolutions were promptly adopted, though Mr. Dodge appears to have been unable to accomplish anything in the matter, at that session. But Governor Doty returned to the charge, and in his message of December 4, 1843, again awakened the attention of the legislature to the subject, and in plain terms “demanded” that “the birthright of the state” should be at once vouchsafed her by congress. The message was referred to a select council committee, of which Moses M. Strong was chairman, and Messrs. David Newland and Edward V. Whiton (afterwards chief-justice) were lay members. The committee — which had been instructed to report “whether the boundaries for the fifth state, by the ordinance of 1787, have been infringed by the government of the United

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