

tion which may assemble to form a constitution for said state shall be at liberty to adopt such northern and western boundaries, *in lieu of those herein prescribed*, as may be deemed expedient, not exceeding, however, the present limits of the said Territory.”

In this form the bill was passed the 9th of June, but on the following day the vote was reconsidered, and an animated debate sprung up over the proviso.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Douglas explained that his object in introducing the new northwest boundary line was, that it would then leave “as much of the old Northwest Territory out of Wisconsin as in it, so as to form a new state equal to it in size.” Allen G. Thurman of Ohio said this proviso would enable Wisconsin to form a state with sixty-eight thousand square miles, which he deemed a preposterous size. “We had enough,” he said, “of the Northwest Territory still left, unenclosed, to form two good states; or if it was not quite enough for that purpose, it would be easy to add a little territory on the west bank of the Mississippi;” but this proviso would “enable Wisconsin to so cut up the choicest land, to suit herself, that there would not be enough left together to form any other state.” John A. Rockwell of Connecticut thought the “assigning to these new states territories disproportionately large, would be eminently injurious both to them and to the Union at large.” Samuel F. Vinton of Ohio said that by the treaty with Great Britain of 1783, the western boundary of the United States was to commence at the Lake of the Woods and run thence by straight line to the source of the Mississippi, and then down that river — and such was understood by those who originally drafted this bill to be the present western boundary of Wisconsin; but Nicollet’s map, which had heretofore been relied on by the house committee on territories, fell two degrees short of extending to the Lake of the Woods; by comparing the act which created the Territory of Wisconsin with Tanner’s and Melish’s maps, he found that “a line drawn from the source of the Mississippi due north to the latitude of 49° [the boundary of the United States] would pass eighty miles west of the Lake of

<sup>1</sup> *Cong. Globe*, 1846, p. 952.