

of a free people, it is necessary, in order to avoid disputes, that the limits of this state should be ascertained with precision and exactness; and this convention, composed of the immediate representatives of the people, chosen by them to assert their rights, to revise the powers given by them to the government, and from whose will all ruling authority of right flows, doth assert and declare, the boundaries of this state shall be as follows, that is to say: the limits, boundaries, jurisdictions, and authority of the state of Georgia, do, and did, and of right ought to, extend from the sea or mouth of the river Savannah, along the northern branch or stream thereof, to the fork or confluence of the rivers now called Tugalo and Keowee, and from thence along the most northern branch or stream of the said river Tugalo, till it intersect the northern boundary line of South Carolina, if the said branch or stream of Tugalo extends so far north, reserving all the islands in the said river Savannah and Tugalo to Georgia; but, if the head spring or source of any branch or stream of the said river Tugalo does not extend to the north boundary line of South Carolina, then a west line to the Mississippi, to be drawn from the head spring or source of the said branch or stream of Tugalo river, which extends to the highest northern latitude; thence, down the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude; south, by a line drawn due east, from the termination of the line last mentioned, in the latitude of thirty-one degrees north of the equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola, or Chatahoochee; thence, along the middle thereof, to its junction with Flint river; thence straight to the head of St. Mary's river; and thence, along the middle of St. Mary's river, to the Atlantic ocean, and from thence to the mouth or inlet of Savannah river, the place of beginning: including and comprehending all the lands and waters within the said limits, boundaries, and jurisdictional rights; and also all the islands within twenty leagues of the sea coast. And this convention doth further declare and assert, that all the territory without the present temporary line, and within the limits aforesaid, is now, of right, the property of the free citizens of this state, and held by them in sovereignty, inalienable but by their consent. Provided, nevertheless, That nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to prevent a sale to, or contract with the United States, by the legislature of this state, of and for all or any part of the western territory of this state, lying westward of the river Chatahoochee, on such terms as may be beneficial to both parties; and may procure an extension of settlement, and extinguishment of Indian claims, in and to the vacant territory of this state to the east and north of the said river Chatahoochee, to which territory, such power of contract or sale, by the legislature, shall not extend: And provided also, The legislature may give its consent to the establishment of one or more governments westward thereof; but monopolies of land by individuals being contrary to the spirit of our free government, no sale of territory of this state, or any part thereof, shall take place to individuals or private companies, unless a county or counties shall have been first laid off, including such territory, and the Indian rights shall have been extinguished thereto.

§ 24. The foregoing section of this article having declared the common rights of the free citizens of this state, in and to all the territory without the present temporary boundary line, and within the limits of