

LECTURE.

Gentlemen of the Mercantile Library Association : —

I HAVE taken the "Territory of Oregon" for the subject of this evening's lecture. I propose to give you the material facts in relation to the conflicting claims to this territory, shewing their origin — the grounds upon which they are maintained — a summary of the principal arguments upon both sides — the negotiations for their settlement — and the present state of the question. I shall take the liberty to add my own views relative to its final adjustment. It would be useless to attempt to conceal — what you will doubtless soon discover — that the subject is a very dry one, and will be treated in a very dry manner. It is however, at the present time, one of great importance : for there seems to be a determination, among some of those in power, to have immediate action upon it ; and this action may go far to decide whether our present amicable relations with Great Britain are to be preserved.

Four powerful nations have put forth claims to this territory, viz : — Spain, Russia, Great Britain and