

sentences: "As between France and Great Britain, or Great Britain and the United States, the successor of all the rights of France, the question (of boundary) would seem to be concluded by the treaty of Versailles, already cited, in which Great Britain relinquishes, *irrevocably*, all pretensions west of the Mississippi. On the footing of the treaty of Utrecht, ratified by our convention of 1818, England may possibly, by extension of contiguity, carry her possessions from Hudson's Bay across to the Pacific, north of latitude 49°; but by the treaty of Versailles we possess the same right, and an exclusive one, to carry our territory across the continent, south of that line, in the right of France."

It may, perhaps, be urged that the limits of Louisiana, on the west, are confined to the territory drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries; the extent of her claim, founded on the discovery of that river, being restricted to the country so drained. The principle upon which this limitation is attempted may be safely admitted, without in any degree affecting the right for which we contend; because, first, Great Britain is precluded from asserting it by her admission, in 1763, that Louisiana extended indefinitely west from the Mississippi; and, second, because the principle being of universal application, if the discovery of the Mississippi by the French confines Louisiana to its waters east of the Rocky Mountains, the discovery of the Columbia by the Americans will extend their claim to the whole country watered by that great river, west of those mountains, and our true claim has this extent. Yet, to avoid unprofitable disputes, and for the sake of peace, we have expressed a willingness (met in no corresponding spirit, the committee is sorry to say,) to confine ourselves to much narrower limits.

SPANISH TITLE.

The Spanish claim to territory north of California, depends in a great measure upon prior discovery, for we cannot find that any settlements were made or colonies planted by them north of the 42nd parallel of latitude, except the temporary occupation of Nootka Sound, by Martinez, in 1789. That the Spaniards first discovered and took possession of the country at the head of the Gulf of California, and upon the river Colorado, which empties into it, is questioned by none; and that, by such discovery and possession, Spain acquired, against all the world except the natives, the paramount title to the whole country watered by that river and its tributaries, depends upon a principle too well settled now to be denied. Hence we find the Mexican territory extending with the acquiescence of all nations, to the 42nd degree of north latitude, in which the Colorado takes its rise. We mention this fact now, as it furnishes a conclusive answer to the idle claim set up by Great Britain under the pretended discoveries of Sir Francis Drake. It is not the intention of the committee to encumber their report with a dry and barren detail of the dates of vaunted discoveries of early navigators. Little reliance can be placed upon the truth of their reports, and still less upon the accuracy of their observations, which were seldom verified by the subsequent use of more perfect instruments. It will be recollected that the committee professes to give but an abstract of the title upon which the United States now relies, and will therefore pass over entirely, without notice, all such voyages and discoveries as have no direct bearing upon that point. Within forty years after the discovery of America, Hernan Cortez, the most intrepid if not the least scrupulous of the Spanish generals, overran the empire of Mexico, penetrated to the Pacific Ocean, and made a small establishment at Culiacan, on the Gulf of California, in latitude 25 degrees.

From this period till 1543, a number of voyages were made toward the northwest, with results wholly unimportant to the present investigation. In that year, two vessels were placed under the command of Cabrillo, who died before the termination of the voyage, and the command devolved upon Bartholome Ferrello, who pushed his discoveries as far north as 43 or 44 degrees. The committee refers to this expedition as no otherwise important than as it furnishes another very satisfactory refutation of the claim, even at this day advanced by the British ministry, under the first discovery, as they allege, of Sir Francis Drake. This great captain and successful