

convention, drawing his materials from Greenhow's elaborate exposition of the claim of the United States,* and assuming, for the sake of argument, the facts to be as stated in that publication, but by no means admitting that the claims of the respective parties are therein fairly set forth.

DISCOVERY.

Discovery exclusively confers, not an actual right of property, but a contingent right of possession.

The exclusive character, however, of this contingent right, may be barred by delay or by waiver, though neither bar can be pleaded in negotiation by a competitor, who has not himself acquired some claim or other.

But there may be, with respect to one and the same country, a conflict of discoveries, each prior to the rest as to some section or other. The earliest discoverer is generally satisfied with such a glance of salient points, as in most cases leaves very much to be discovered by his followers in the same path,—the north-west coast itself perhaps furnishing the most appropriate variety of examples as to the relative merits of successive visitors. The southern half of the disputed territory must have revealed nearly all its truths to the first navigator that passed

* *Memoir, Historical and Political, of the North-west Coast of North America, and the adjacent Territories; illustrated by a Map and a Geographical View of those Countries.* By ROBERT GREENHOW, Translator and Librarian to the Department of State. Pp. 228, 8vo. Wiley and Putnam, New York and London.