

long distant journey with their women and their children. From that time did that country become known to us as a civilized community; as a community of families; as a community which would have a great part yet to play in the destinies of the country and of the world.

Time rolled on; California was acquired, and its immense mineral riches became known. Oregon, which had been healthfully and rapidly settling, became stationary. Many of her people went to California to dig for gold. Emigration was turned overland to California, and she became a great centre of attraction, not only to the people of the States, but to the people of other countries. This stationary condition of Oregon, however, continued but for two or three years, and then she greatly increased in population. Gold was found in Southern Oregon, and large numbers of miners found remunerative employment there. The northern portion of Oregon was organized into a separate Territory, the Territory of Washington.

Within the last four or five years rumors had spread abroad that gold was to be found in Washington and in the British possessions to the north. The country was more or less *prospected* in each year, and this year we find its mineral wealth is attracting the attention of the civilized world. We find that both in Washington and in British Columbia, facts exist, which establish the extent and richness of their gold diggings.

This seems therefore to be an opportune moment for presenting in a careful and deliberate manner the geography, resources, and ultimate development of that entire region.

This is the object which I propose by my address of this evening. I shall endeavor to do this with all the dispassionate judgment that I can command. My purpose is not as the partisan, to set forth the advantages of a particular section of country, but to present that section fairly and candidly, both in its relation to the countries north