

their sources, and affording no access to the sea between the parallels $49\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, so that it must be a considerable period before any intimate connexion can exist between settlers in these districts; and it may well become a question whether there is any probability of their being inhabited, if disconnected by any circumstance from the more fertile districts of the south, and the supplies which may so easily be conveyed to them from thence by sea. It is remarkable also, that on the south, as has been observed, the Great Salt plains between the Snowy Mountain ranges confine the cultivateable part of California to the comparatively narrow strip between their western range and the Pacific, so that it is cut off from all connexion with the east, except by the valley of the Colorado; while it is most intimately connected with Southern Oregon by that of the Sacramento. Its excellent harbours, especially San Francisco, seem to offer a more fitting outlet for its produce than those to the north. This the Americans perceiving, are not remiss in their endeavours to annex that country as they have already done the Texas; and if political speculations could here be indulged in, it would not be difficult to show that an arrangement which reserved the ports north of the Columbia to Great Britain, giving those of California to the United States, would be most advantageous to both parties, and might probably be effected without trouble or opposition from Mexico, whose hold on that province has long since been relaxed. This would, however, be out of place here; but the intimate connection of the future destinies of the Oregon and California may excuse the remark that the value of San Francisco as a naval station

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