

The region of country from the Ocean to the head of tide water, which is about two hundred miles, is heavily timbered, with a great variety of wood well calculated for ship building, and every species of cabinet, or carpenter's work; though there is a heavily timbered country thence for two hundred miles further, yet it is of a lesser growth, and quality not so durable; at that point commences the plain country when the soil becomes more thin, and almost without wood, until it arrives at the table lands below the mountain, though the soil of this region is not so good as in any other part of this great valley, yet it produces grass of the finest quality, and is emphatically called the region favorable to the production of the horses; this noble animal so far surpassing all others in usefulness, courage, and swiftness, is here produced in greater perfection than even in Andalusia, or Virginia. But, independent of all the wealth which may be derived from the fur trade of that river, and the Missouri, the security too which the peace of this country would find in the influence which the American traders would obtain over the native, is, the increasing commerce in the Western Ocean. There is no employment so well calculated to make good seamen, as the whale fisheries, which are known to be more profitable on this coast than any other, at the same time the oil is far preferable to that taken on any other coast, being clear and transparent as rock water. Whilst so many of our citizens are industriously engaged in the various branches of trade in those seas, more valuable to this country it is believed than any other, whilst all nations who have claims upon that coast, and some who have none, are anxious to occupy some position upon it, even at a vast expense, to enable them to participate in its benefits; we have neglected to extend to it any portion of our care, though it appears, from the best information, that there is at this time eight millions of property owned by citizens of this republic in the Pacific Ocean.

Russia, whose dominions on the Asiatic coast, occupy nearly the same position upon that side, which ours do on this, has long been well informed of the great and increasing value of that commerce; and whilst she has been no where visible, not even to the powers of Europe, only as she has of late taken part in a few memorable enterprises, she has been felt every where, no labor, care or expense, is avoided, to make tributary the four quarters of the globe; forts, magazines, towns, cities, and trade, seem to arise on that coast as if by magic; with an army of a million of men, she sits not only in proud security as it regards Europe, and menaces the Turk, the Persian, the Japanese, and Chinese, but even the king of Spain's dominions in North America is equally easy of access, and equally exposed to her fearful weight of power. Her watchfulness is ever in advance, in discerning the most practicable avenues to profitable commerce. In the midst of all her busy arrangements she has not neglected the opportunity of possessing herself of two important stations on the American shore of the Pacific, the one at a place called New-Archangel, in about 59° of north latitude, the other at Bodiga Bay, in latitude