

not have been produced by one who had never quitted the barriers of Paris. The errors and misstatements of M. de Mofras are indeed innumerable, particularly in all that relates to the United States, towards which he appears to entertain feelings of aversion even stronger than towards Great Britain. To their discredit, history and statistics are made equally subservient; and from the facts as thus presented, always with extreme minuteness and precision of detail, conclusions are drawn, which have at least the merit of novelty. Thus while pathetically lamenting the entire disorganization of *all* the American Republics, he finds consolation in the fact, that they *all* exhibit a general return to monarchical predilections, even the United States, "*where the tendencies of the loyalist party (?) are well known.*" He resigns the hope that France will recover her former dominions on this continent, but he is assured that "the Canadians are at this day as French as in the times of the Duquesnes and Beauharnais;" and he confidently pronounces, that whensoever they may throw off the detested yoke of Britain, a Franco-Canadian empire will be formed, extending from the Saint Lawrence to the Pacific, and including all the British possessions and Oregon, which will be bound to France by every tie, and will afford the most important aid for the expansion of her establishments in the Pacific. This *songe diplomatique* seems to have affected the imagination of M. de Mofras most strongly, and traces of its influence are to be found in every part of his work; of his care in citing authorities, and his ingenuity in drawing deductions suitable to these views, remarkable instances will be found in the note on page 159 of this volume.

With these preliminary remarks and explanations, the author presents his book to the public, trusting that it may prove useful, in placing the difficult questions on which it treats, in a clearer light, and may thus contribute to their just and peaceful determination.

WASHINGTON, MARCH, 1845.