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last. They will find there not one syllable contra-
dicting the assertions made, and inferences drawn,
by his great rival, in the foregoing extracts. Mr.
Fox had said, that Spain's claim of exclusive terri-
tory in Spanish America was sanctioned by treaty
stipulations and was founded in justice. No
denial of this by Mr. Pitt. Mr. Fox had as-
serted, that either Nootka, if indeed Nootka was
restored, or a yet more northern Spanish settlement,
if such should hereafter be found, was the mark of
limit on the north, of Spanish America. Mr. Pitt's
silence admits the accuracy of this interpretation.
Mr. Fox had declared, that to the south of these
Great Britain had renounced all right of sovereignty
or permanent settlement. That, too, by passing it
over unanswered, Mr. Pitt concedes. Nay, the
British minister goes further yet. In reply to the
inference deduced by Mr. Fox from the above, that
"every new regulation was a concession, not an ac-
quisition," Mr. Pitt admits:

"That though what this country (Great Britain) had
gained consisted not of new rights, it certainly did of new
advantages."—p. 1002.

And then he proceeds to expatiate—on territorial
rights acquired? on the privilege of settlement south
to San Francisco? Not a word of it; but on the
whale fishery and its advantages; and therewith he
winds up his speech.

Now is it credible—is it conceivable even—that a
minister, than whom one more able in debate or
more accomplished in diplomacy never guided the
destinies of Britain, should have listened to all these
assertions, thus publicly put forth in the National
Legislature, by a member hardly second to himself
in talent and in standing; knowing, too, that, the
next morning, the thousand tongues of the press
were to declare these aloud, to England, to Spain,
to the civilized world; is it, I ask, within the bounds
of possibility, that such a minister should have suf-
fered all this, without protest or contradiction, if any
protest could reach, if any contradiction could dis-
prove it? It is not credible, not conceivable, not pos-
sible. No man, who stands on his reputation for
common sense, will argue or believe it.

The conclusion is irresistible, that, let England's
pretensions on the Northwest coast, be, at the pres-
ent day, what they will, they extended, in 1790, no
further than to a joint right of settlement, north of
latitude forty-nine and a half, shared with her
equally by Spain. Such was, then, the "acknowl-
edgment of existing rights," which, Mr. Pakenham
declares, "cannot be revoked at the pleasure of either
party."

I might here rest, without another word, the whole
case. But it is useful as well as curious, to pursue
the matter a little further, and trace the growth of
these pretensions of England, from their modest
shape in 1790, to their overgrown form at the pres-
ent day.

The first opportunity on which England, in ac-
cordance with a policy which has gradually secured
to her the dominion of a large portion of the world,
saw fit to push onward her territorial claims in
Northwestern America, was the appointment of
commissioners to carry out the first article of the
Nootka convention.

The celebrated navigator Vancouver, was ap-
pointed on behalf of England, and a Señor Quadra,
on the part of Spain. They met at Nootka, in Au-
gust 1792; and the account of their negotiation is
given to us by Vancouver, in the narrative of his

voyage. Their respective views as to the matters
in dispute were soon found to differ very widely.

Quadra maintained, that Meares never had actu-
ally purchased any land at Nootka; that he had never
even had possession of any, except a single spot,
"forming nearly an equilateral triangle, not extend-
ing a hundred yards on any one side, bounded in
front by the sea; and on the other two sides by high
craggy rocks;" on which isolated spot Mr. Meares
had erected his temporary residence. He adduced,
in proof of his assertions, the testimony of two
American captains, Gray and Ingraham, who had
been present at Nootka in 1788 and during the
whole proceedings in 1789. These gentlemen de-
pose, that though they remained there nine months
and could converse perfectly with the natives, they
never heard of any purchase of land by Meares.

In regard to building, and in proof that even the
above spot of ground was abandoned by Meares,
when his last vessel, the *Iphigenia*, commanded by
a Captain Douglass, left the Sound, in the autumn
of 1788, they add:

"On the arrival of the *Columbia*, in the year 1788, there
was a house, or rather a hut, consisting of rough posts,
covered with boards, made by the Indians; but this Captain
Douglass pulled to pieces, prior to his sailing for the San-
dwich islands, the same year. The boards he took on board
the *Iphigenia*, and the roof he gave to Captain Kendrick,
which was cut up and used as firewood on board the *Co-
lumbia*; so that, on the arrival of Don Martinez, there was
no vestige of any house remaining."—*Proofs and Illus-
trations to Greenhow's Oregon*, p. 415.

Under these circumstances Señor Quadra very
naturally concluded, that Meares had been dispos-
sessed of neither lands nor buildings; and, conse-
quently, that there was "nothing to deliver up."
He observed, at the same time, (so Vancouver in-
forms us:)

"That Nootka ought to be the last or most northwardly
Spanish settlement; that there the dividing point should be fixed;
and that, from thence to the northward should be free
for entrance, use, and commerce to both parties, conforma-
bly with the fifth article of the convention; that establish-
ments should not be formed without permission of the re-
spective courts; and that the English should not pass to the
south of Fuca."—*Vancouver's Voyage*, vol. 2, p. 342.

In a word, the Spanish commissioner put upon
the provisions of the Convention the very same in-
terpretation which had been put upon them, public-
ly and uncontradicted, by Fox and others in the
British Parliament, two years before.

Subsequently, Señor Quadra offered to leave Van-
couver in possession of the spot Mr. Meares had
occupied, and even to place at his command the
houses, gardens and offices then occupied by the
Spaniards, whilst himself retired; but "without
prejudice to the legitimate right of Spain."

To this Vancouver declared, that he was not au-
thorized to agree. He contended, that the words
"buildings and tracts of land" employed in the first
article of the Convention could not possibly be con-
strued to mean merely a triangular spot hardly con-
taining one acre of ground, and

"That at least the whole port of Nootka, of which his
Majesty's subjects had been forcibly dispossessed, and at
which themselves, their vessels and cargoes had been cap-
tured, must have been the proposed object of restitution."—
Voyage, Vol. 2, p. 375.

He also put forward the British claim, then for
the first time asserted, to equal settlement with
Spain, *South to Latitude thirty-eight*; declaring that he

"Conceived port St. Francisco to be the northernmost
settlement occupied by the subjects of His Catholic Maje-
sty, in April 1789."—*Voyage*, Vol. 2, p. 350.

This, by the way, was not, in any sense, the