

some other point of that coast, recommended by my predecessor, and already matured in the deliberations of the last Congress, I would suggest the expediency of connecting the equipment of a public ship for the exploration of the whole northwest coast of this Continent."

The Committee are of opinion that all the inducements to this measure, which existed at that time, continue now in full force, and have acquired new cogency and intensity with the lapse of years; and that other and equally strong ones have since grown up, all pointing to the same object; and they propose to exhibit these in full to the House, in obedience to their instructions, which enjoin them not only to inquire into the general question of the expediency of establishing a post on the river Columbia, but also into the particular elements of which the general question is composed. In the discharge of which duty, they proceed to consider in the present Report,

"The extent of the country claimed by the United States west of the Rocky Mountains, and on the northwest coast on the Pacific Ocean; the title under which it is claimed; and the evidence of the correctness of that title."

By the treaty between Spain and the United States concluded at Washington the 22d of February, 1819, commonly called the Florida Treaty, it is agreed that the boundary line between the possessions of the two nations west of the Mississippi, after reaching the river Arkansas, shall be "following the course of the southern bank of the Arkansas, to its source, in latitude 42 north; and thence, by that parallel of latitude, to the South Sea." And this line is confirmed by compact between the United States, and the Mexican Republic as the successor of Spain, in the treaty of limits concluded at Mexico on the 12th of January, 1828. In virtue of which two treaties, the southerly extent of the country in question, from the Rocky Mountains west to the Pacific, is the forty-second parallel of north latitude.

By the treaty between Russia and the United States concluded at St. Petersburg the 17th of April, 1824, it is agreed that there shall not be formed by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of the same, any establishment upon the northwest coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent, to the north of 54 degrees and 40 minutes of north latitude; and in like manner, none by Russia or her subjects, south of the same parallel of latitude.

Saving the rights, whatever they may be, of the Indian tribes scattered over the country, there is no foreign Government, except Great Britain, which asserts or pretends any title in the tract of country west of the Rocky Mountains on the Pacific, adverse to that of the United States.

There is a convention between Russia and Great Britain, concluded at St. Petersburg the 28th of February, 1825, by which Russia engages to Great Britain, as she had already done to the United States, to make no settlement on the northwest coast south of the latitude of 50 degrees 40 minutes north. This treaty could not, of course, prejudice the rights of the United States, any more than the preceding one the rights of Great Britain.

The United States and Great Britain have, by a convention concluded at London the 20th of October, 1818, mutually agreed that the 49th parallel of north latitude shall be the line of demarcation between their respective territories west of the Lake of the Woods, and thence to the Rocky Mountains. Efforts have been made to adjust their conflicting