

Juan on its left. Thus, since it is no longer possible to carry out the precise instructions of the Oregon Treaty—seeing that there are three channels in place of *the* channel—the adoption of this middle channel, in place of the impossible ‘middle of the channel’ of the Treaty, would seem to place the least strain upon its interpretation, and may certainly be accomplished without the least injury to the rights of any nation in existence. By the adoption of this channel as a continuation of the international boundary line, it is not at all necessary that it should be used by the ships of either nation. Each nation would then possess a safe and commodious channel, lying beside its own territories. We must regret that negotiations were allowed to be brought to a close, however temporary, without so reasonable and obvious a compromise being insisted on. It must be conceded by all parties that the island of San Juan can be held by Great Britain only for *defensive* purposes. It must be conceded by all parties that it can be held by the United States only for *offensive* purposes. Indeed, it is simply a question whether England shall be allowed to visit her own possessions and export her own gold, without passing under the guns of a foreign Power.

From the international boundary line, British Columbia possesses a seaboard of some 500 miles—extending inward to the culminating ridge of the Rocky Mountains, about 400 miles from the coast. Its territories, therefore, extend from the sea-level to 15,000 or 16,000 feet above it—a circumstance to be borne in mind in considering the nature of its climate and the capabilities of its soil. This rise, however, from the sea-coast to the lichens and eternal snows of the great American Cordillera is not uninterruptedly maintained. A subordinate range, known as the Cascade Range, runs parallel with the Rocky Mountains, at a distance of about fifty miles from the sea-shore. To the foot of this range, the ascent is pretty evenly, though slowly, sustained, but after the traveller has passed through its defiles, he comes out on a table-land, elevated from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above sea-level, and stretching away thence to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Indeed, the Rocky Mountains themselves are not so much one continuous ridge as an aggregate of short parallel ridges standing on this plateau, and running from NNW. to SSE., with long deep valleys between—clustering more thickly, indeed, culminating, and then rapidly ceasing altogether some 500 miles from the sea-coast, but, also, found scattered in detached ranges throughout a large portion of the intervening space. While, therefore, there is every gradation of temperature from that of the coast-line to