

confess, when I saw all this, I felt ashamed that I was an American. I am convinced that not another nation under heaven would submit to it, or could be so negligent of the interests of its people. The company have all the cattle, sheep, &c., but will not sell to a settler a single cow or a sheep; they will, I believe, sometimes sell a pig, but nothing else *alive*—not even a horse; nothing that breathes. They have now contracted to supply the Russians at Sitka, and all the northern parts, with goods of all kinds that the Russians require at twenty five per cent. advance on the London invoice, to be delivered at the ports where they are wanted, without charge for freight or expense of any kind; thus driving the Americans off the coast. It is also well understood that they purpose taking possession of the Sandwich Islands, which the British Government claim under an old grant from *Tamahmaah*. There is too good reason to believe (indeed the opinion is prevalent at Oregon) that the grasping ambition of the British will not with all this be satisfied, but that they intend to add even *California* to their possessions; meaning and intending thereby to obtain possession of the bay of San Francisco, which is decidedly the best place on the whole west coast of America for a naval depot, and where the combined garrisons of the whole world could anchor with perfect safety; being accessible at all times for vessels of any draught of water.

"The colony from the United States is situated on the Wallamet, a branch of the Columbia, about ninety miles from the mouth of the river, which is, undoubtedly, the finest grazing and wheat country in Oregon. At present, it consists of about seventy families, who raise considerable grain, and have about three thousand head of cattle. The mission last year raised one thousand bushels of wheat, and made butter, cheese, &c., enough for their own use. They have five hundred head of cattle and two hundred horses, and last year they sowed four hundred bushels of wheat, one hundred and twenty bushels of pease, and planted a large quantity of potatoes and vegetables of all descriptions. They have hogs, poultry, &c., in abundance. Last year they raised over fifteen hundred bushels of potatoes. The extent of the country comprising the Wallamet Valley is about three hundred miles long and two hundred broad, interspersed with ravines of wood, generally of sufficient quantities for fuel and tanning. The land in its natural state is usually ready for the plough, and is very fertile, producing from twenty-five to forty bushels of wheat to the acre; and the climate is so mild that the cattle subsist in the fields without fodder or shelter of any kind being prepared or provided for them through the winter. Simon can be taken at the Wallamet falls (which, however, the British have taken possession of, and compelled our people to build their mills at the falls above) with little trouble, from May to September, in almost any quantity. I have no hesitation in saying that ten thousand barrels might be taken per annum. Probably no place in the world offers greater inducements for emigrants. Provisions might readily be had to support one thousand emigrants at any time. Flour, at the season high, in consequence of a want of mills—a difficulty that is now obviated by the erection of two new ones, viz. one by Mr. McKee, and one by the mission; as also two saw-mills. Wheat is nominally worth one dollar per bushel, beef six cents per pound, pork ten, cows fifty dollars each, oxen sixty, horses thirty-five. Potatoes bring about twenty-five cents per bushel. Labor is worth about thirty-five dollars per month, the laborer being found by his employer."

I have repeatedly alluded to the commercial and territorial cupidity of the Hudson Bay Company, its unjust encroachments, its insatiable rapacity, the spoliation of our legitimate trade, and even the murders which have tracked its course as a company. But, in simple justice, let me say that these acts and this character belong to them only in a corporate capacity. As individuals, many of them are men highly humane and honorable. It is abundantly known, in particular, that there lives not a more generous, benevolent, and kind hearted gentleman than Dr. McLaughlin, the individual at the head of the company's affairs on the Columbia. His acts of voluntary kindness towards our citizens; his courtesy towards whomsoever of our officers or public agents may have visited that country; the ready and liberal good offices which he has ever extended wherever they were needed, do him him great honor, and should not be mentioned without thanks. I make, then, my charges against the collective company and its policy, not the individuals of whom it is made up. Let me, on the other hand, as freely remark, without desiring to

diminish anything from this individual praise, that, as a company, they can well afford to be generous to us of the fruits of our own soil. An annual half million in the fur-trade may well mitigate a good many national prejudices. Out of this abundance which should be ours, they may well dispense some hospitality to our citizens and accredited agents. For training on their savage dependants to waylay our wanderers, to burn our settlements, to exterminate the settler, to shut out our traders from all participation in their traffic, these civilities are, after all, but a cheap equivalent. True it is, however, that in the former rivalry between the two companies, before they were merged into one, they were as rapacious and as sanguinary towards each other. And why should they be more just or more merciful towards us, the alien race?

Of these deeds the Senator from South Carolina may have some recollection, and of the time when in their contest for the supremacy of that region, the employees of the two companies were led to mutual outrages as detestable as any to which they now jointly instigate the savages against our helpless citizens and traders. He may perhaps recall the tragedies of 1819; when the Northwest Company made regular war upon that of Hudson's Bay, to drive them from the trade; pitched battles being fought as between two fiercest Indian tribes, with a loss of twenty men in a single affair. Governor Semple and Mr. Kevenny (another leading man) perishing in the contest.

I surely have not need to urge that they who the sordid love of gain could thus urge to imbue their hands in the blood of brother Englishmen, would little hesitate to inflame the natural antipathies of the savage, and turn his secondariness into an easy and a general instrument for effecting those dark deeds by which the citizens of a rival power were to be put out of the way when they came between them and their gains.

I do not speak idly of these matters, but hold my hand to the names of men who personally knew the influence and the arts practised against us by men as Governors Clarke and Cass, whose judgments and knowledge in Indian affairs were beyond dispute. They show that, up to 1829, at least five hundred of our people have been destroyed in this way, and that the rate of subsequent destruction has not changed. All the evidence shows that, wherever the British fur trade is pushed, the Indians are subsidized. The terms of the subsidy have an index in the murders committed on our people. Trace up the butcheries in the Rocky Mountains and their plains, the ravage in our exposed settlements, and you will find them uniformly committed by Indians clad in British blankets and armed with British tomahawks and scalping-knives. Is not this proof enough to whom this work of blood is done? How, then, sir, shall this innocent blood of your citizens to you in vain? How long shall it be before you interpose to arrest these crimes? Are the lawless pursuits of your people to be thus left the spoil of the prey of foreign rapacity? Does not the treaty which is so often pleaded, declare these pursuits legitimate; or is it, then, but an idle form, legitimate, you are bound to protect your citizens who engage in it; and the question of greater or less profitability than other occupations, is not one to be considered, except by those who engage in it. The Senator from South