

maintained. But this is not merely the averment of the President; but the whole current of a most vehement debate runs in support of this fraudulent assertion of a claim. Says the President:—

“The territory of the United States, commonly called the Oregon territory, lying on the Pacific Ocean, north of the 42d degree of latitude, to a *portion* of which Great Britain lays claim, begins to attract the attention of our fellow-citizens; and the tide of population which has reclaimed what was lately an unbroken wilderness in more contiguous regions, is preparing to flow over those vast districts which stretch from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.”

I published, in *The Times*, and other leading periodicals, on the appearance of this document, an exposition of the true facts of the case. My statement became the subject of many articles; and the British people awoke to a true knowledge of their interests, which the Americans wished to wrest from them. I showed, that up to 1814, they never claimed more than the right of joint occupancy—that after the Florida treaty, they took a bolder tone, and claimed *exclusive* right—that in 1827, they never ventured to claim beyond the 49th degree. But now they take a bolder tone still; and, on the gambling principle of “all or nothing,” claim up to the Russian frontier.

As there was no work lately published by an Englishman descriptive of the country, and the relative position of parties: and as the books already published by *flying* American travellers, who had picked up their accounts piecemeal, in different parts, are strongly tinged by prejudice; I imagined that a true and dispassionate account of the whole country would tend to place the question on its proper basis. I thought then—and this thought was strengthened by some judicious friends, who had seen the several statements that I published, and had examined my rough log-book—that if I had given a fair and dis-