

it valuable to Russia. The Russian Company has been under the protection of the Emperor, and some of its officers have been appointed from the army and navy, with the agreement that their years of service in the Company shall count as years of service in the army or navy. Many of its servants are also from the army; but while connected with the Company they wear no uniform, though from previous service they are ready to resist any attack from the natives.

We have now seen that our new territory is large; has a great extent of sea-coast; is not very cold in winter, nor very warm in summer; is populated by Indians who are fierce and warlike, and by Esquimaux who are peaceful and already subjected; is already known to be rich in certain minerals, and is probably rich in others; is capable of producing various grains in the south; and can at once be made of value by its coal, its ice, its fish, its timber, and its furs.

Two questions remain to be considered: "Has the United States acquired a territory free and unincumbered?" and, "What is the best way to govern their purchase?"

We have seen it intimated in some quarters that the United States has acquired this territory, subject to certain rights of Great Britain; but we think such is not the case. By the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain it was agreed that British vessels should forever enjoy the right of navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams which, in their course toward the Pacific Ocean, cross the line of demarkation between the two countries. The principal rivers which were included in this agreement are the Youkon or Kwickpak and the Sticlin. The Youkon rises near the centre of British America, from which point it runs northerly till it joins the Kwickpak. The Sticlin rises in British Columbia, and empties into the Pacific in about 55° 30' north latitude. The navigation of the Youkon has not yet become valuable to Great Britain; but she already uses the Sticlin to a considerable extent to reach gold mines which have been discovered near its source.

There appeared in a newspaper, published at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, some few years ago, an article which declared that England must have the mouth of the Sticlin for her own, and that the simple right to navigate this river was not enough; for she could not suffer a Russian town to grow up at its mouth, which town would owe all its importance to the trade of the interior. The article is a very violent one, and sets forth clearly the value of the mouth of this river, and even advocates the taking forcible possession of it. The mouth of this river now belongs to the United States, and Great Britain will hardly take it by force. But another question arises: Has England still the right to navigate it freely?

The treaty of 1825 was continued by the

treaty of 1843; and when, as that treaty had been abrogated by the war, it became necessary in 1850 to make a new treaty—the treaty of 1825 was again continued. The treaty of 1850 provided, in regard to its own continuance, that it should remain in force for ten years from the date of the exchange of ratification; and further, until the expiration of twelve months after either of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of its intention to terminate the same, each of the high contracting parties reserving to itself the right of giving such notice to the other at the expiration of the first nine years, or at any time afterward.

Have we now become parties to the treaty of 1825? or, in other words, Does the right which Russia gave to England of navigating certain rivers run with the land?—The better opinion is that it does not.

It must be noticed that even the parties to the treaty of 1825 did not consider that it was to be perpetual; for by the treaty of 1843 they expressly continued it. That "forever" with them meant "until restricted" is also shown by the fact that this treaty was embodied in the treaty of 1850, which is terminable on notice. The right to navigate these rivers was then by the parties themselves considered to be only a personal right, and one which did not necessarily continue even if the ownership did not change. This right of free navigation was a mere license given for no consideration, which expired with the change of ownership. If it was given for consideration we are not bound to grant it, for we bought land which, in the treaty, is declared to be free and unincumbered, and Russia must see that it is so. But if it is considered that we are subrogated to the rights of Russia as existing under the treaty of 1825, it must be further held that we are subrogated to those rights as modified by the treaty of 1850, which would permit us to give notice to Great Britain in January next that, after a year from that date, English vessels can no longer enjoy the free navigation of the Youkon and Sticlin.

Let it not be supposed that we are urging that the United States should not allow British vessels to navigate these rivers as they now do; we only mean to be understood as saying that, if we do allow this, we allow as a favor what we have a right to prevent; for we have acquired the possession of lands free and unincumbered.

The question of the best method of governing this colony is not an easy one. At the present time it has no population which can be made to feel and appreciate the peculiar advantages of our government. The laws which are to govern it must be made by Congress, or else the whole matter must be intrusted to a Governor, or to a Governor and Council, who must have regard not only to the present but to the future condition of the country.

When Mr. Golwin made his report he