

been, relieving their wants and supplying their necessities when a return was impossible. Nor should the enmity be forgotten, which, lurking in their bosoms against the American free trappers, breaks out when opportunity offers, as we have seen Fremont witnessing, and which has so essentially contributed to render any attempt to establish trading ports in the Oregon by them always abortive; nor the probability that in despair they might unite with the Blackfeet and other border tribes in a war of retaliation and revenge, in which the inhabitants of our own frontiers might in the end be considerable sufferers. But on higher considerations, surely if St. Paul was debtor not to the Jews only, but to the barbarians, how much more are we debtors to those who have so long considered themselves the allies, if not the subjects, of Great Britain.

It is not then impossible that had these things been taken fairly into consideration no such offer as that alluded to would have been made by the British Government; but in addition to these particulars there are some general geographical considerations which militate strongly against it.

It has been shewn that north of Broughton's Archipelago, perhaps from Mount Stephen, a confused mountain chain runs north-west to the southern points of the Babine and Peak Ranges, separating Frazer's River and its tributaries, as they do the Unijah or Peace River, its tributaries, and the head waters of the Mackenzie River, from the rivers falling into the Pacific, thus dividing the country through which they flow from the Oregon territory, properly so called, excepting at the Table Lands, in which all these rivers have