

TERRITORY OF OREGON.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 976.]

JANUARY 4, 1839.

Read, and 10,000 extra copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. CUSHING, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which the subject had been referred, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which were referred a Message from the President of the United States, and a Resolution of the House, in relation to territory of the United States beyond the Rocky Mountains, report, in part:

The Committee have examined the present subject with the deliberate care, which their estimation of its importance demands; and they are of opinion that it is due alike to the interests and the honor of the United States to take immediate steps to assert and secure the national rights in this matter.

They find that in his Message to the two Houses at the commencement of the second session of the eighteenth Congress (December 7th, 1824) the then President of the United States (Mr. Monroe) recommended the subject to the consideration of Congress in the following terms:

“In looking to the interests which the United States have on the Pacific Ocean, and on the western coast of this Continent, the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of Columbia river, or at some other point in that quarter within our acknowledged limits, is submitted to the consideration of Congress. Our commerce and fisheries on that sea, and along the coast, have increased, and are increasing. It is thought that a military post, to which our ships of war might resort, would afford protection to every interest, and have a tendency to conciliate the tribes to the northwest, with whom our trade is extensive. It is thought, also, that, by the establishment of such a post, the intercourse between our western States and Territories, and the Pacific, and our trade with the tribes residing in the interior, on each side of the Rocky Mountains, would be essentially promoted. To carry this object into effect, the appropriation of an adequate sum to authorize the employment of a frigate, with an officer of the corps of engineers, to explore the mouth of the Columbia river, and the coast contiguous thereto, to enable the Executive to make such establishment at the most suitable point, is recommended to Congress.”

At the commencement of the ensuing Congress, the same subject was referred to in the annual Message of the then President of the United States (Mr. Adams) as follows:

“Our coasts, along many degrees of latitude upon the shore of the Pacific Ocean, though much frequented by our spirited commercial navigators, have been barely visited by our public ships. The River of the West, first fully discovered and navigated by a countryman of our own, still bears the name of the ship in which he ascended its waters, and claims the protection of our armed national flag at its mouth. With the establishment of a military post there, or at
Thomas Allen, print.