

“ In a military point of view, it is to Oregon and California what Bermuda is to the eastern seaboard of the United States, its splendid harbours and fine timber affording shelter and supplies for fifty fleets; while, in a commercial point of view, it ought to be the great depôt for supplying Oregon and California with British manufactures; not to mention the Russian settlements, from which it is only ten days’ sail, and China and Japan, from which it is not more than eighteen or twenty days.”

“ I believe, if there is a spot in the world which, so far as we can read its future destinies, is intended for mighty purposes, that spot is the western coast of America. Everything that has been going on there for some time past indicates that it will be an enormous civilised portion of the world—the southern part of this coast being secured to the United States; the northern to us. From the mouth of the Columbia river down to California the whole country belongs to the United States; and I think it of the greatest importance, looking to the circumstances which are likely to arise, that a free and independent colony should be established in Vancouver’s Island. I think it no vain dream to anticipate that the day will come when not only the whole commerce of the Pacific, but of the coast of Asia, will, in all probability, flow into the ports of that island. South of Vancouver’s Island, till you come to San Francisco, there is not a single available spot where a ship can take shelter. Under these circumstances, I must say it is no answer to tell us of the distance of Vancouver’s Island from Great Britain. The efforts which are now making for the colonisation of neighbouring districts make it certain that some means of overland communication will before long be discovered.”—*Lord Lincoln’s Speech, House of Commons, 19th June, 1849.*

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“ Probably there was no spot on the face of the globe more advantageous for the promotion of commerce and trade than this island. The natives, with their wooden implements alone, could now produce coals at 4s. per ton; and, therefore, there could be no doubt that, with the necessary improvements, coals could be obtained for 2s. a ton.”—*Mr. Hume’s Speech, House of Commons, 19th June, 1849.*

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