

Columbia valley against a number of flourishing, constantly increasing, thoroughly British settlements, established not only in the Columbia valley, but in the neighbouring territory at a much earlier period? We think a liberal allowance of the territory on the southern bank of the Columbia River, on which this settlement was made, would be all that Astoria, regarded in the most favorable light, would be entitled to claim. And England has always offered to the States a much larger portion of the territory.*

I have thus examined the Spanish-American title to Oregon. I have endeavoured to establish that the Spanish branch of the title, *considered as a ground of exclusive sovereignty to the whole or any portion of the Oregon*, is utterly worthless : that it is moreover incompatible with the American title, properly so called : that the American title, or the title founded on the discoveries and settlement of the Americans themselves, is infinitely weaker than the British title of the same nature, and that it cannot, when considered even in the most advantageous manner, confer a right of sovereignty over that portion even of the territory which Great Britain has proposed to yield to the United States.

I had intended to have said a few words with reference to the claim put forward by Mr. Calhoun, on behalf of the United States, under the Louisiana treaty, concluded between France and the United States, in 1803. Mr. Packenham completely dissipated this claim ; and, indeed,

* An intelligent and impartial American writer, in the January number of the *North American Review*, closes his examination of the American claims to the Columbia valley with these words:—"To the region thus drained, (*i. e.*, the Columbia valley,) the discovery of Gray, the expedition of Lewis and Clarke, and the settlement of Astoria, afford us (the people of the States) not the shadow of a title."