

"nature we will not mind about the tip of Vancouver Island, which that line would cut off; you may have that." I was surprised when I read the foregoing passage in Mr. Ramsay's lecture, for I had been under the impression that the proposal came from Great Britain. Referring to Miss Martineau's History of England, I find that in the message of President Polk in 1845 very strong language was used, which was taken exception to by some members of the Senate. In the next month Queen Victoria, after expressing regret at the unsettled state of the Oregon question, said that "no effort consistent with national honour should be wanting on her part to bring the controversy to an early and peaceful termination." The narrative then proceeds "with a view to driving on the matter to a decision by force, the war party had carried resolutions that notice of the cessation of a joint occupancy of Oregon should be given to Great Britain." It was finally decided that the resolutions should stand, and a declaration was agreed to that "it was for the purpose of inducing a speedy, amicable settlement of the dispute on the ground of an equitable compromise." The next step was Lord Aberdeen's proposal of compromise, which was sent out to Mr. Packenham, who, notwithstanding Mr. Ramsay's amusing story "about the salmon in the Columbia river refusing to rise to the gaudy fly," had really nothing whatever to do with the matter, but to submit Lord Aberdeen's proposal, which the President laid before the Senate, which approved of it by a large majority. I own that I wholly fail to comprehend how it can be alleged that, under the circumstances stated, Great Britain "gave all away," when it succeeded in obtaining the 49th parallel of latitude as its boundary instead of the 54.40, when it obtained the same latitude west of the Rocky Mountains as had been previously established on the east of that range. As the adoption of that line to the Pacific would have necessitated the division of the Island of Vancouver between the two nations, it was agreed that it should belong to Great Britain and that the line of boundary should be the middle of the channel, and of Fuca's Straits to the Pacific. From this treaty Mr. Ramsay tells us came the San Juan dispute, which was at one time nearly causing bloodshed. General Harney, termed "a fire-eating General" took possession of the island and ships of war were sent out by Great Britain, when General Scott succeeded in making an arrangement for a joint occupation of San Juan pending the settlement of the dispute, which was effected by leaving it to the arbitration of the Emperor of Germany who, as Mr. Ramsay tells us, "decided for the Haro channel and for the United States, and