

RIGHT OF SETTLING.

THE title to the Oregon territory, and the exclusive right of occupancy, yet remains vested in the Aborigines. The benevolent work of enlightening and civilizing that rude and suffering people, is a prerogative of sovereignty, belonging to the nation which may have first discovered their wants, and possess the means of giving them the conveniences and comforts of refined society, and such concomitant benefits, as diversify and adorn human life.

It is evidently the intention of the God of Nature, that the white man and the Indian should have a common and mutual right to occupy the earth, to use its productions, and profit by the blessings of society; and that individuals, who mostly share in the favors of Providence, should be most "ready to communicate" of the good, to his neighbors. This common law of our nature, this common concern of mankind, is no less imperious, in its obligations, on nations than individuals.

These few pages do not admit of a discussion of this question; nor is it necessary since from an investigation of facts, on other occasions, it has been so clearly deduced, that the duty of protecting the rights, and of cherishing and sustaining the interests of the Oregon Indians, devolves on the American nation; and consequently in her is the right of sovereignty. The import of this word is sometimes misunderstood. It is mistaken for government or jurisdiction itself; whereas it is only a *right*, which one country has in preference to another, to establish a government, territorial, colonial or any other. It is a matter of deep regret that the U. States have not exercised this right of extending jurisdiction over the territory in question, and of putting up barriers against the extension of British jurisdiction.

The right claimed by our citizens to settle is identified among their many privileges, as social be-